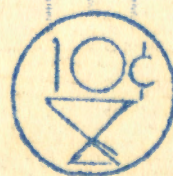


GREENBELT CHARTER DAY EDITION

SUPPLEMENT OF THE COOPERATOR

JUNE 1, 1938



I N T R O D U C T I O N

Every man's knowledge may be enriched through the goodness of his neighbor by sharing experience, education and community ideals.

This first supplement of the Greenbelt Cooperator, in commemoration of Charter Day, is compiled in an effort to reveal the social and economic march of events and at the same time establish an interesting historical background.

We have endeavored to record the genuine spirit and energy of the community in forwarding every worthy cause for the betterment of our people, and believe this edition to be a fitting tribute to the liberal spirit of a small town, established under the noble traditions, and humanitarian objectives of American Democracy.

With the extension of these ideals and principles to the sphere of economic practices, we forecast a better tomorrow through cooperative living.

Editorial Committee
Charter Day Supplement

Louis Bessemer

Rae S. Sowell Webster W. McAchren

CHARTER-DAY-EDITION

GREENBELT

CO-OPERATOR

Supplement No. 1

Greenbelt, Md., June 1, 1938

Price Ten-Cents

WATCHING THE TOWN PARADE

By Mayor Louis Bessemer

Our community is not hampered by the crusty mold of tradition. Our physical surroundings are unique. Our homes bring us 20th Century comforts and maximum utility.

Here sunshine, woods, lawns, parks, playgrounds - the great out doors, and the refinements indoors - are combined for the elevation of the mind and the strengthening of the body.

We may therefore candidly ask ourselves: What use dare we make of our MINDS? Science has made possible for us new freedom, new choices, new horizons.

Freed from painful drudgeries, from gloomy surroundings, from congested municipalities, what can we, what dare we, do with our cultural advantages? This is a paramount question.

An answer to this question, during the coming years, will awaken interest among students, economists, sociologists, and scientists. Greenbelt will have an answer, but nobody at this period can predetermine what the answer will be.

The average age of adults here is 31. If we could get together somehow in the year 1988, or the year 2000, we might compare notes and reflect upon matters

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THE TOWN CHARTER

By Sherrod E. East
(Town Councilman)

Greenbelt's form of government, like other phases of our Town, was planned. It was desired that the municipal organization of the

community conform with its other modern aspects.

Further, it was necessary to insure a town government which could and would fit the peculiar property situation (Federal ownership) and still insure traditional democratic prerogatives. The answer was an adapted city manager system.

Although this type of government is new in Maryland it is well established in many other States and localities

throughout the Country. When the officials of the Farm Security Administration had drawn what they considered to be an adequate charter, designed after the model town manager charter, it was submitted to the Maryland State Legislature for approval and enactment.

Mr. Charles C. Marbury and others of the Prince George's County delegation as well as certain Farm Security Administration officials worked extremely hard in guiding the law through to passage.

Certain features of our Charter are
(Continued on Page Six)

GREENBELT

By Dorothy Parsons East

Mountain laurel and dogwood and pine,
Elm and oak and delicate vine;
Magical patterns of squares of light
Set in the mystical black of night;
Homes that are pleasant and ever more dear

Through all the changing moods of
the year;
High-hearted women and strong-hearted
men,
Freedom and joy for the young
denizen;
The strength of the hills, the beauty
of flowers--

All these are Greenbelt, and Greenbelt is ours!

THE GREENBELT CIVIC FORUMS

By Nathan Schein

Some 125 Greenbelt residents on the evening of January 6, 1938 listened intently while Dr. Fred W. Ingvoldstad delivered his views on forces at work which tended to deter the outbreak of war in Europe.

The enthusiastic applause that greeted Dr. Ingvoldstad upon the conclusion of his address was adequate testimony that the Greenbelt Civic Forums had "gotten off" to a happy start.

Subsequent forum programs presented Gardner Jackson of the American Civil Liberties Union and Dr. Carl C. Taylor of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

It was with some misgivings that the forum program was inaugurated. The Education Committee of the Citizens' Association could do naught but proceed and hope that the program would be well received. From the first session the committee knew that its efforts had not been in vain.

There is no doubt in the committee's mind but that the programs could have been better planned and presented with greater regularity than was the case. "Mark" that up to lack of experience.

It is fitting in this Charter Day issue of the Greenbelt Cooperator to express the committee's gratitude to those groups and individuals who were of inestimable aid in the carrying out of the forum programs.

First and foremost,--the Forums Project of the U. S. Office of Education, Mr. Chester Williams, Dr. Paul Sheats, Miss Allen,--all staff members of the Forums Project.

Thanks are due to members of the Cooperator staff for their cooperation in helping the committee print and distribute announcements of the forums and in giving the program wide publicity here.

The committee received the cooperation of the Community Manager's office in obtaining custodial service for forum nights.

The committee hopes that the forum program will become a permanent feature of Greenbelt community life.

WOMEN'S ATHLETICS

By Marna Leland Jacobsen

150 Greenbelt women, on March 23, left husbands at home as nursemaids while they reported to the gymnasium for "ladies' night". Many of them sat on the sidelines at that first meeting, "feeling their way"--not too confident of their appearance nor athletic prowess.

The apparent lack of Babe Didricksons, however, seemed to give more confidence and it was soon discovered that street costumes disguised shorts, slacks, gym uniforms, coulottes, overalls, and pajamas.

Strangely enough, an overwhelming majority voted against forming a club, preferring to leave Wednesday night as an open recreational evening with no officers, dues, etc.

The interests in the group have been varied--basket ball, reducing and limbering up exercises being the favorites. However, during the early spring months the program consisted of dance exercises, volleyball, basketball, simple folk dancing.

At the present time an intramural tournament in softball is being played with four teams organized under the names of Huskies, Doves, Berries, and Scrubs.

In order that the health of participants may be safeguarded, a doctor's approval will be required in the fall for all types of strenuous activity like basketball and dancing.

Teams will be organized within the group in each seasonal sport and intramural tournaments will be played off, thus providing opportunity for many to participate.

An attempt will be made to interest many women in many types of activity rather than concentrating on the development of one good team. For those who are not interested in sports there will be dancing and calisthenics.

Perhaps adequate equipment for individual and dual sports will be added so that games such as badminton, aerial darts, deck tennis, horseshoes, tennis etc., can be included in the program.

THE CHILDREN'S COOPERATIVES

By Ollie E. Hoffman

As they passed up and down the corridors of their fine new school building last fall, the upper-classmen of the elementary and high schools in Greenbelt caught sight of orange crates, tin cans with bright red labels, empty cartons and bottles--all arranged in piles with some semblance of order. Feeble scrawls on placards announced the opening of "Our Store". The first and second graders were building a play store and were learning to trade with cardboard nickels.

The upperclassmen were too realistic for such juvenile practices. They determined to start real stores--one in the elementary school and one in the high school. At home they had been hearing about cooperatives and on the cans they had seen Co-Op labels. Why not try a Co-Op store--with their own money? And run it themselves?

The idea got well under way when committees canvassed all the rooms to find out what the pupils would like to buy in their real stores. Another committee got busy selling shares at ten or twenty cents each. Others were drawing up by-laws, making posters, and preparing speeches to give in classrooms or before assemblies to explain their project.

With this preliminary work done, the stores became a reality. The members elected Boards of Directors who selected managers to stock their stores with \$10 worth of cookies, candy, popcorn, gum, pencils and tablets. And they proceeded to "save by spending".

Savings returns of 20% of the purchases have been distributed twice this term. In the elementary store the total sales have reached \$75 although the store is open two half-hours each school day. The high school cooperative does not distribute its savings but builds up a social reserve of over \$30 which will be spent for library books and athletic equipment.

While their parents talk about cooperatives, the kids build them and learn about them in a realistic manner.

MOTHER'S CLUBS

By Mrs. Lester Hayes

Greenbelt women, having manifested a desire to organize a Mother's Club, met in the Home Economics Room of the school on December 1, 1937.

It was the purpose of those present to form a study group which would help each and every mother with her everyday problems. With this in mind, two groups were formed, "School Age Mothers", and "Pre-School Age Mothers' Club".

Each group is to concentrate on a special set of problems. Edna Benefiel was elected President, Mrs. Eva Morgan, Vice-President and Mrs. Carnie Harper, Secretary of the "School Age Group". In the "Pre-School Age Group", Mrs. John Murray was elected President, Mrs. Marion Havens, Vice-President, and Mrs. Audrey Hayes, Secretary.

School Age Mothers meet the third Tuesday of each month and the Pre-School Age Mothers meet the first Thursday of each month. The Social Room at the School is the club room for both groups. Each group is to continue as a separate and distinct unit.

Each meeting finds many Mothers taking an active part in discussions. Topics are announced in advance.

The School Age Club has studied the following subjects: Etiquette for Juniors, Race Prejudice, What is New in Report Cards, What Intelligence Tests Show and The Sex Problem. Each month one mother studies the topic for discussion and conducts the program.

All mothers join in, and each contributes her bit of knowledge or experience. Often programs are enriched by speakers who are specialists in some phase of child life. After each meeting, mothers may go away feeling more confident in dealing with problems of the home.

The Pre-School Age Club studies the problem of children from babyhood to adolescence. Such topics as, How to Handle Jealousy, Children Like to Mind, On Going to Bed and Mental Hygiene for Mothers. Each mother is relieved to find that her child is as good (or as bad) as the average child.

The Clubs unite at the end of the school year with a picnic in which husbands and children are invited, of course.

TOWN COUNCIL AND GREENBELT SCHOOL MERIT PUBLIC RECOGNITION

By Governor Harry W. Nice (Maryland)

When the chief executive of a state is requested to prepare a statement on the occasion of an important milestone in the life of a community, it is a responsibility not easily assumed. One wishes that he might know in person each citizen of a community and intimately share opinions, as our forefathers frequently did in town meetings, in the hope of contributing something toward better understanding.

On this occasion it is suggested that I write on the subject of "Cooperation between the State and Federal Government in a Housing Program for Maryland". Far too intricate and complex a subject is this to approach in a brief space. It appears that we are challenged through Federal Housing programs to bring about improved standards by enlisting the combined resources of private and public agencies in each municipality. It is true we have the natural resources, the technology, the man-power, and the money, for large achievements in housing. The purchasing power of low-income groups must be raised in order to create an effective demand. This is the primary problem.

Nevertheless, in your Charter Day Supplement, I would commend the community on a significant matter which may properly receive attention now, when so many of our young people are leaving their schools with diplomas at commencement. I refer to the technique of progressive education which the elementary school at Greenbelt has adopted with the cooperation of the Prince Georges County Superintendent of Schools. Only recently did Greenbelt's educational plan come to my attention.

Working on various projects, the children are concerned with the general theme of "A Program for Living". Around this theme, as I understand it, every phase of community life is objectively examined, history is recorded and modern trends are evaluated. While this process is going on, children are collaborating and setting up physical demonstrations by building miniature factories, farms, towns, playgrounds, and "planning for the future". They are vitalizing the educational process by integrating their knowledge of reading, writing, arithmetic, science, geography, spelling, with the everyday business of living. Government, shop keeping, accounting, banking, municipal planning, civic responsibility, and character building, are coordinated and their inter-dependence is made clear.

What is being done in Greenbelt, in this respect at least, I am confident, will have an especial value in any consideration of educational mechanisms in Maryland. Where children respond with joy and eagerness to the learning process, education has a life--meaning. Through education we can hope for enrichment of lives everywhere and, let us trust, the blessings of peace.

While all these better things are on the horizon which would make cooperation and lasting peace in the world, one of the tragedies of our time, is the ruthless determination of European dictatorships with their philosophy of race hatred, nationalistic supremacy, and the militaristic rule of the fang and the claw. Minorities are singled out for persecution or destruction. The rights of small or peace-loving nations are violated, their lands are invaded, and their resources plundered. This morbid philosophy of conquest and hate, of Deification of the Power of the State, is a madness which may carry youth to destruction in less enlightened areas of the world.

Under your town charter, I note, incidentally, that you have established the first Council-Manager form of local government in Maryland. By its very nature it must be non-partisan, it must deal with each community problem objectively, and in this period of ever-increasing technology, where the advances of science are re-shaping the whole course of human events, I may say, that such non-partisan town government impresses me as a symbol of progress in town and city administration. I shall watch its development and regard its progress with sympathetic interest.

WATCHING THE TOWN PARADE

(Continued from Page One)

which concern us now.

With the weight of years, perhaps, we citizens, in a philosophical mood, might agree upon the proposition that we are not important, (we ourselves count for little,) but what is important and that which has eternal significance is what we value most, what we treasure, what we love.

Are we hasty? Are we impatient? The processes of evolution here, as everywhere, are slow. Worthwhile achievements are the result of steady application.

From the time the Tenant Selection Committee plowed through 12,000 applications and settled on 885 families, we have seen a multitude of complex problems ironed out, but do we appreciate the magnitude of the tasks which confronted federal administrators in housing the "First Families" in Greenbelt?

That thousands were denied the privilege of living in Greenbelt is no fault of the thousands so denied. We hope that our Economic Society will place its house in order that none shall be denied the simple conveniences, or decencies of life.

If we grapple honestly with social problems during the next fifty years, our nation may develop 10,000 "greenbelt" towns wherein millions of people will be comfortably housed through public and private enterprises.

- Crowded "Rugged" Individualists -

High rents and low incomes, rent gouging, and tenant crowding--these are the intolerable conditions among millions of American city dwellers. Indescribable slum conditions prevail where our "rugged individualists" are loudest against government housing subsidies.

While the welfare of a whole city is at stake, we notice the rabid appeals of demagogues who like nothing better than to poke unreasoning, or silly, satire at "Tugwelltown". Editorials in defense of rugged individualism appear frequently.

While not a few of these editors and newspapers are suffering from fatty-degeneration, one does not wonder that their reasoning is twisted as a rat-hole. Their satire or sarcasm is not at all as "funny" as it is stupid.

While Greenbelt children skip through sunshine, frolic over playgrounds, tramp through woods with their parents, enjoy nature trails and campfires, study in clean, well-lighted school-rooms, sleep in sanitary, spacious houses, and participate in the social companionship of equals, these editors are harping about the priceless heritage of rugged individualism.

At the very door of these editors rise the reeking stench of slums, the wailing of thousands of mothers, whose outlook is darkened by poverty and wretchedness. For all of these mothers and their children, there are the hazards of evil influences, the terrors of traffic, heat in summer, and cold in winter, stifling congestion, in disease-infected slums.

Poking fun at "Tugwelltown" is an indication of the social-conscience of our metropolitan press (in certain quarters). Mammon may have blinded a few editors to truth. Where corrupt economic interests are in power, should we not observe that the press (with all its boasted freedom) is prostituted in the name of Rugged Individualism?

There is but one possible answer, as pointed out by the National Association of Housing Officials in the report, A HOUSING PROGRAM FOR THE UNITED STATES, adopted at its Baltimore Conference in 1934. This report calls for a permanent federal housing agency to coordinate local effort, adequate financial assistance by the federal government "in forms likely to stimulate local initiative and local participation in the cost", state control, and financial aid to local governmental units and local governmental or associated local agencies to carry out the actual program.

---From an article on "Housing as a Public Health Problem" in the American Journal of Public Health, Jan., 1937, by Prof. C. E. A. Winslow, Yale School of Medicine.

GREENBELT BOY SCOUTS

By Charles G. Pettit

On December 15, 1937 the Greenbelt Citizens' Association voted to sponsor a Scout Troop in Greenbelt and a committee was appointed. As its first duty, the committee appointed Charles G. Pettit III as scoutmaster and Crawford M. Bishop as assistant scoutmaster.

The first meeting of the troop (202) was held on December 23 when nine boys joined and signed the original charter. Working from this nucleus, the troop had increased its membership to 23 by February 11, when the scouts gave a demonstration in the school gymnasium.

At this time Field Executive Hovey presented the troop with its charter, and the committee and scoutmaster were sworn into office. The troop then became official. Receipts from this demonstration enabled the troop to purchase its own American flag and troop flag.

Since that eventful night the troop has continued its growth until at the present time there are 32 scouts and 3 leaders.

With the many outdoor facilities at hand, the troop is continuously taking hikes of all kinds and the boys are becoming very adept at outdoor life.

The troop is planning to pattern its activities after those of the first Americans--the Indians--and consists of the Iriquois, the Sioux, the Blackfeet, and the Mohawks. Teepees will soon be in the making as well as other Indian objects--clothing, totem poles, tomahawks, etc.

On the nite of May 6 the entire troop played host to their mothers. Dropping all formality, the scouts and their mothers played games, sang and enjoyed refreshments and "a good time was had by all."

Plans are now being made for a big "Father and Son" banquet next month.

Advancement in rank is now in progress and Greenbelt may well be proud of its Boy Scout Troop 202.

The following hold office and direct the troop's activities: C. G. Pettit, scoutmaster; C. M. Bishop, assistant

THE TOWN CHARTER

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worthy of special note.

First, as in other similar documents there is a complete and clear separation of legislative and executive functions.

City managers working under such charters have earned a reputation for business-like methods in municipal administration.

Second, full power of removal of the Town Manager is retrained in the Town Council.

Third, due again to the peculiar property situation, the bulk of the town funds is raised by petitioning the Farm Security Administration for funds "in lieu of taxation." This particular procedure is provided for in Section 2 of Public Law No. 845, of the 74th Congress.

Fourth, the Council elects from its own members the Mayor and the Mayor pro tem.

Fifth, the jurisdiction and powers of the Council are clearly defined, in so far as the State Legislature, in an organic law, could define them; but the first Council has had the problem of adjustment of details between the Farm Security Administration and the municipal government.

It is well, in this connection, that there has been a spirit of cooperation. However, when the town is completely finished and occupied and the government's interest has been turned over to a proposed Corporation, such as Greenbelt Housing Authority, the town government will be in a much stronger position should a conflict of jurisdiction occur.

Such an eventuality is unlikely under our Charter, and in view of the fact that all are working to make our great experiment in housing and in community living a success.

scoutmaster; J. L. Dameron, Senior patrol leader; Bob Porter, patrol leader; Leroy Clark, patrol leader; Tommy Poston, patrol leader, Revere Nielsen, patrol leader and scribe for the troop; Junior Nanna, quartermaster; Blake Palmer, bugler.

THE GREENBELT JOURNALISTIC CLUB
AND THE GREENBELT COOPERATOR

By R. S. Sowell

No sooner had they settled in Greenbelt last October than several of the "First Resettlers" conceived the idea of a "home-town" weekly newspaper for the community.

An announcement of the proposed plans containing a statement that they "would like to get a newspaper started and have it grow with the community" was placed on Greenbelt's first bulletin board which was located in the temporary food store.

- First Meeting -

This notice resulted in an expression of interest by others and a meeting was held on November 11, 1937, attended by 15 persons.

It was at this meeting that the Greenbelt Journalistic Club and the Greenbelt Cooperator came into existence.

- First Trial Period -

Not being sure, of course, that even a mimeographed weekly could be successfully published for the time being, a trial period of six issues was decided upon.

The Greenbelt Consumer Services, Inc., expressing an interest in the proposed paper, consented to purchase the stencils and paper and pay for stencil cutting during this period.

The work of writing, editing, typing, mimeographing, and delivering was done entirely by volunteer workers, and the paper was distributed free of charge to the residents.

- Second Trial Period -

At the end of this time the club decided to continue publishing the Cooperator and to do so meant financing it. This the club proposed to do through the sale of advertising space and subscriptions.

Through the medium of questionnaires, a number of people had expressed their desire for the continuance of the paper and informed the club of their willingness to subscribe for it. The chairman of the business committee had reported that he could sell some ads.

This attempt at self-sufficiency has been very successful.

- Editorial Policies -

The Cooperator at the outset adopted the following policies: nonprofit, nonpartisan, neutral in religion and an open forum for civic affairs.

While it had steadfastly stuck to these general principles, after the Cooperator had been published a number of weeks, the club set up a committee to go into the question of editorial policy.

This committee reported that the Cooperator should continue following the broad policies already adopted.

While an effort has been made to be unbiased in presenting the news, an editorial stand has been taken upon various matters.

The editorial position of the Cooperator is subject to the will of the majority of the club.

- Advertising Policies -

Because it was felt by many people in the club that the paper should be consumer-conscious and cooperative-minded, some of the advertising in the Cooperator brought complaints.

A committee was set up by the Journalistic Club to study this question with a view toward recommending advertising policies.

- To Preserve Editorial

Independence -

The advertising committee, among other things, recommended the policy that "to preserve editorial independence, there should be as little dependence on advertising as possible" since the club was "financing a paper of cooperative and consumer nature."

Stating that the "Greenbelt Cooperator should not be associated with advertising that is or may have been false, misleading or unethical," an advertising acceptance committee whose job it would be to "determine what advertising is or is not acceptable for publication" was recommended.

- Recommendations -

All of the recommendations made by the committee were adopted by the club, put into effect immediately, and published in the Cooperator. They included the nature of the Cooperator, space allowances, types of advertising, advertising rates, and commissions for selling advertising.

(Continued on Page Eight)

THE GREENBELT JOURNALISTIC CLUB
AND THE GREENBELT COOPERATOR

(Continued from Page 7)

- Volunteer and Paid Workers -

Up to the last week in March all of the workers on the paper, except two, were strictly on a volunteer basis, putting in long hours of real labor for which they received nothing.

The stencil cutting had been paid for since the beginning of the paper and a commission for securing advertisements had been paid since early in February.

Since the latter part of March, however, all workers have cooperatively shared in the profits of the paper, receiving 50 percent of the profits based on the number of hours put in by each.

- Printed Paper Considered -

From the beginning of its existence, the club has considered the publishing of a printed newspaper. At least two committees have been appointed which have gone into the matter thoroughly.

It is expected by a majority of those in the club that, as soon as practicable, a printed Cooperator will be published but not until it is felt that the paper can be successfully and permanently put out in this form.

- Open Membership of Club -

The membership of the Journalistic Club is open to anyone who is interested. Its meetings are held regularly each week and everyone has an equal opportunity to serve in the club or on the paper whether a new or an old "settler."

It is probably the most active club in the community and has grown in membership from 15 on November 11, 1937 to about 60 in May, 1938.

- Cooperation -

Everyone has shown splendid cooperation in the publishing of the Cooperator and the small sums now being received cannot begin to repay these workers for their sincere and energetic efforts.

Anybody can submit material and have it published, subject to editorial revisions, of course.

- Town Directory -

Of primary importance and interest to the Journalistic Club is, of course, the publication of the Greenbelt Cooperator.

Besides publishing the Cooperator since its inception, however, the club, through

13 MILLION NEW HOMES NEEDED IN U. S.
TO BRING UP HOUSING STANDARDS

Catherine Bauer of the Labor Housing Conference and Coleman Woodbury of the National Association of Housing Officials estimate that the construction of over 13 million dwellings is needed to bring our housing up to reasonable standards by 1945 --including nearly 7 million to catch up with merely quantitative needs, 3 million to replace dwelling units already unfit for habitation in 1930, and 3 million more to replace units becoming obsolescent between 1930 and 1945. Between 1930 and 1935, the actual net increase of dwelling units was at the rate of only 60,000 a year. --From an article on "Housing as a Public Health Problem" by C. E. A. Winslow, Professor of Public Health, Yale School of Medicine.

Construction was first started on Greenbelt, located seven miles north of Washington, D. C. Greenhills lies five miles north of Cincinnati, Ohio, while Greendale is three miles southwest of Milwaukee, Wis.

its business committee which was under the chairmanship of Robert D. Hayes, published the Greenbelt Town Directory on February 1, 1938.

This first issue of the directory, containing the names, addresses and telephone numbers of residents, covered only blocks D, E, and F. Supplements will be published at a later date covering blocks A, B, and C, according to present plans.

- Cooperative Law Proposed -

The Journalistic Club has decided that the Greenbelt Cooperator should initiate a campaign to secure the passage by the Maryland Legislature of a bill concerning the organization and regulation of cooperative associations.

Such a bill as desired by the club would protect cooperative enterprises in the use of the word "cooperative," would define what a cooperative is, and would prevent fraudulent organizations from being formed under that name.

Although the Journalistic Club has gone on record in favor of working for such a bill, definite plans have not as yet been formulated.

GREENBELT HOUSING DEMONSTRATIONS
TO AID FEDERAL PUBLIC HEALTH WORK

(The following statement is condensed from an article on "Modern Housing in its Relation to Public Health" by Surgeon General Thomas Parran. The original report, published in the Greenbelt Cooperator during the past year, advances arguments for a national housing program on the ground of social and economic policy, -Ed.)

The Greenbelt planning demonstrations are of considerable interest, particularly because of the opportunity which they afford to reduce sickness by providing adequate housing. We may feel certain from what is already known that the provision of decent housing plus a good community environment will contribute much to well being. The extensions of the Greenbelt demonstrations throughout the country at large may be expected materially to aid public health in proportion to their adaptation to large populations.

It cannot be assumed that violations of basic health principles in housing can be eliminated immediately by such projects as Greenbelt, and it should not be expected that the establishment of other modern housing developments could at once eradicate a situation which is an outgrowth of industrial changes. This situation is implicitly recognized in the Wagner-Steagall Housing Act of 1937 which created a permanent Authority for the purpose of remedying gradually the needs of a large section of our population.

The Public Health Service has constantly stressed the necessity of improving the living environment of the people in order that the causes of ill health may be reduced. This is in part accomplished by field and laboratory studies, by statistical analysis of health data secured daily from all parts of the country, by direct aid to states in health matters, and by education.

In closing, it may be remarked that the provision of adequate housing is an obligation of any government interested in the welfare of its citizens. Intensive public education in public health matters is a logical means by which to attain better housing, and housing projects similar to Greenbelt should be regarded as experiments in environmental

OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN WRITERS HERE

By Elizabeth Little,
Editor, Mrs. Greenbelt

I took over the editing of Mrs. Greenbelt from Ruth Hayes at the end of February with some anxiety. Here was a section already well organized with a strong backbone of helpful and timely features, such as The Kitchen Maid and the Household Hints, which I did not wish to see weakened.

At the same time, I felt that it was not enough for Mrs. Greenbelt to have new recipes if she continued to buy blindly the ingredients for them. The women's section of the Cooperator must be as much in advance of the women's section in an ordinary paper as Greenbelt is in advance of an ordinary town.

Therefore, while continuing the older features, my staff and I have tried to broaden their usefulness by giving much space to news about the work of the Consumer Discussion Groups, and to features designed to increase knowledge of the goods sold in stores.

The projected series of articles of wider application in the life of the women of Greenbelt has been more difficult to carry out. The field is a rich one which I should like to see developed, but one cannot make too many demands on the time of busy housekeepers with young families. Rather, one must feel grateful to the women who have given so generously of their time -- and hope for more work as the children grow up.

The chief difficulty in the work has been the lack of written comment on it, favorable or unfavorable, which leaves editor and staff at sea in making plans for further issues. The future of the section will depend on spirited comment and criticism by its readers, as well as on more reporting of women's activities and new features.

living conditions that may be expected to pay dividends in future national health. Experiments, however, are only of value when there is accurate recording of essential data. It is to be hoped, therefore, that provision may be made for securing records at Greenbelt and similar projects which will have scientific value.

ONE TRANSPORTATION VIEWPOINT

By Robert E. Jacobsen
(Town Councilman)

Transportation has been and continues to be the most important problem facing Greenbelters.

Months before the first family moved into Greenbelt Roy Braden, Warren Vinton and other Farm Security (formerly Resettlement) Administration executives worked on transportation. The Greyhound Bus Company investigated the situation and offered an excellent service at a reasonable price, but the company's president vetoed the offer. Other bus companies studied the problem but refused to make reasonable bids.

The possibility of using a shuttle bus from Greenbelt to Berwyn, then taking a Baltimore & Ohio commuters' train to Washington was discussed. Despite an attractive rate from the B&O, it was found infeasible because of the fact that most people would have to take a street car from the depot.

Negotiations were made with Capital Transit Company for a service somewhat similar to the one we now have. But just before the first families moved into Greenbelt, Capital Transit withdrew their offer. The early pioneers led an uncertain life. Mr. Roy Braden and other government men operated the station wagon to East Riverdale.

To relieve this bad situation Greenbelt Consumer Services, Inc. agreed to contract for a limited shuttle bus service to East Riverdale until a better arrangement could be made.

A contract was made with the Blue & Grey Sightseeing Bus Company. This shuttle bus service to East Riverdale was slow and costly and attracted few customers. Paul T. Strickler who operated this bus liked Greenbelt so well that he has stayed on as a Greenbelter.

Mr. Braden again negotiated with Capital Transit Company and a trial system was set up. Greenbelt residents will pay Capital Transit Company for losses sustained in this operation.

It is a problem that needs the attention of all Greenbelt residents. A way must be found to provide sure, safe, quick, economical transportation for all of us. Whatever system is finally decided on, it must have the full support of all people if it is to be a success.

FIRST BUSINESS OF COUNCIL

By H. H. Maurer, Mayor Pro Tem

"First Business of the Council" is quite a broad subject and may be discussed from numerous angles. Among items considered by the Council we note:

Appointment of a chairman (Mayor) of the Council; appointment of a Town Manager; certification of a budget for the fiscal year, and request for funds in lieu of taxes; retention of local town management in collection and disposal of trash and garbage; preparation of police, health, and traffic ordinances. These are the highpoints.

The Town of Greenbelt is starting from "scratch" and so is each Councilman. Members of the Council have acquainted themselves with the problems of the community, have examined the type of government under which we live, have cooperated in numerous civic activities, and have held hearings on any question in which Greenbelt citizens have asked for a hearing. The ban on "pets" was one of these issues and it appears to have been indefinitely postponed as an issue. A cross-section of public opinion, in the volunteer poll conducted by Harry Falls, indicated a 4 to 1 vote against harboring pets, in this case, dogs and with that sentiment, the Town Manager was instructed to enforce provisions of the lease.

This Council has functioned in a spirit of unity and understanding. The views of Administration officials or of council members themselves were given proper and fair consideration, whether those views were popular or not.

There have been arguments, criticism, differences - but these have been on a high level of friendly relations. No one has aimed for personal glory or individual gain, and the Council has worked for ordinances which would serve the common good. In Greenbelt the Council has pioneered a nonpartisan type of community government, the only Council-Manager form of government in Maryland.

Working out a program in a planned community, the Council members and the Town Manager may constructively cooperate without "political" wire-pulling and keep faith with the citizens who live here.

"WILL THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN GREENBELT APPRECIATE THEIR COMMUNITY?"
WHAT THE MANAGER HAS DISCOVERED IN THE TOWN--AND WHY

By Roy S. Braden
Community Manager

The first five families came to Greenbelt on September 30, 1937. Since that time occupancy has steadily increased until today we have more than six hundred families, with a population of twenty-three hundred people. Within the next two or three months our town will be completely occupied, meaning a population of more than three thousand persons.

Any other community of this size would have required many years to develop, with attendant facilities and services growing along with the development. The people, and the various agencies, would have had ample time to adjust themselves to the conditions and needs of the community until the time it reached this population, and it would then be very easy to know and understand those things from which the community derived its stability.

Greenbelt, of necessity, has had to reach its complete occupancy, under present plans, within the short space of nine or ten months. Strangers to each other, for the most part, friendships, neighbors and new associates had to be formed overnight. Every person had to adjust himself to new conditions and surroundings. Children can always do this, but here in Greenbelt, adults were face to face with the same problem. There were grave misgivings on the part of many people as to the success of the plan.

Yes - it has succeeded. Through the various organizations, and we have many, the people of Greenbelt have been offered a real opportunity to know each other and to express themselves on community activities. They have done so, and it has helped them and the community.

One of the questions asked frequently within the past two years - "Will the people who live in Greenbelt appreciate the community?" - has been answered. There is no question in our minds regarding this now. They do. There is more cooperative spirit and pride in the town shown by our people than in any other community I have ever served. I believe it will continue so.

Yes, of course, there are exceptions, but that is to be expected. It is not a Utopia, and the millenium is not yet here, but the great majority of Greenbeltians are doing everything they can to make conditions better, surroundings more pleasant and friendships firmer, not only for themselves but also for their neighbors.

The management's offices have been faced with many problems requiring almost twenty-four hour service, but the cooperation and appreciation of our people have done much to make our job pleasant.

They are a fine group.

GREENBELT LEGION POST HISTORY

At the first gathering of the Greenbelt citizens on November 2, 1937, in the school auditorium, a few world war veterans surveyed prospects of forming a veterans' organization.

At this time there were about 75 families residing here. This caucus of 7 veterans decided to call interested veterans to a meeting November 16, 1937.

On this day 15 veterans met in the Manager's office. At this meeting it was decided to form a Legion Post. All present signed a petition for the charter.

It was voted to hold the next meeting on November 22nd. Department Vice Commander Fitzgerald was present and all requirements for a Legion organization explained. Only a few of the veterans present had ever been affiliated with a veteran's organization. On December 3, nominations were made and the following officers elected -- Comrades Harold O. Melsness (Aberdeen, S.D.) Commander; John C. Gale (Chicago, Ill.) 1st Vice-Commander; Herkus Letkeman (Vicksburg, Miss.) 2nd Vice-Commander; Leon G. Benefiel (Pendleton, Ind.) Adjutant; David R. Steinle (Lincoln, Neb.) Finance; Frank Donoghue (New York City, N.Y.) Chaplain; Howard Carr, Historian; and Leo O. Lemire (Orlando, Fla.) Sergeant-at-arms. We now have about 50 signed applications for membership.

On January 29, 1938, we sponsored a Presidential Birthday Ball with 500 persons attending. The local post paid into the National Infantile Paralysis Fund total proceeds of \$124.00. We are now endeavoring to sponsor a Legion Junior Baseball Team. On Friday, June 3, 1938, we will sponsor a three-act comedy entitled "Here Comes Charley." Funds obtained will help carry out our community program.

We pledge ourselves to the community, state and nation.

THE GREENBELT AMERICAN LEGION POST #136
Leon G. Benefiel, Harold O. Melsness,
Adjutant Commander

It is 13 miles from the business center of Washington to the business center in Greenbelt.

GREETINGS TO GREENBELT CITIZENS

By J. O. Walker

Director, Resettlement Division, F.S.A.

From the original concept of Greenbelt in 1935 until the completion of construction in 1937, great emphasis was laid on the beginning of America's town planning. But, as Pare Lorentz said in "The River", "You cannot plan for land unless you plan for people". In those early days of Greenbelt, the planners never lost the thought of the people who would eventually make up the town's population. A town may be built but it is never a complete town without its people.

The Farm Security Administration is proud of Greenbelt as an experiment in planning and in sound construction practices, but most of all, it is proud of the people who are making it a city. Scarcely six months have elapsed since the first family took up its residence here. Just one year ago, the Maryland Legislature granted Greenbelt a charter as an incorporated town. Today, Greenbelt is as much a part of Maryland as the towns founded in the 18th century by the colonists.

The Federal government bought this land, planned this community and built this town. But the future of Greenbelt rests not in the hands of the government but in the hands of those who live here. You have proved in a short time how well you can carry on the responsibilities of good citizenship.

Your town meetings, your social activities, your schools and your church, your citizens' association all bear witness to the fact that "Government of the people, by the people and for the people" is a workable standard of municipal administration. As the representative of the Farm Security Administration, I congratulate you on your successes and extend every wish for an equally successful future.

In 1935 the Resettlement Administration undertook construction of three communities, located near badly crowded cities to furnish homes for low-income families.

GREENBELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

By Mrs. Catherine Reed, Principal

Our course of study is tending to become a course of living. Our purpose for this year was to build a course around life in a new community and better ways of living within it.

Therein, we conceived two sides to the process. As regards the child, "That as he lives and grows, he may live fully and happily; and as regards the group, that he may ever share more responsibly and helpfully in carrying forward the common social life." (Kilpatrick)

The primary group, grades one to three inclusive, have been concerned with a living program of eating and sleeping. The family eating program alone furnished material for study from October, the opening date, through March. This training surely stimulated better living.

Grades four to seven studied giant cities of America and how they came about. Many instances of living emerged and the children developed an appreciation and understanding of group life.

To enable children to have a greater insight into cooperative enterprise, which the adults of the town were considering establishing, a cooperative store organized around children's needs was set up, and through actual experience, children learned many cooperative principles.

The school is evolving its own philosophy, cooperatively day by day. Its procedures are developed through democratic control, mutually agreed upon. While the school respects the uniqueness of personality, it, in no way, permits sovereignty of person to obscure one's social obligations to the group.

It is estimated that the total yearly revenue accruing to the Government from Greenbelt will be \$424,243 from homes, farms and commercial buildings. From this income, payments will be made to state, county, and municipal tax collectors equal to the amounts which would be paid in normal taxation.

THE GREENBELT CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION

On November 9, 1937, the Greenbelt citizenry met for the first time. The nucleus of a Town Meeting system was present, and it served as the basis for the formation of the Greenbelt Citizens' Association.

Indications of the fiery sessions to come appeared at the initial meeting. Members were conscious of the fact that they were forming an instrument for the democratic exchange of individual opinions, and were careful to preserve every detail essential to fair and effective group deliberation.

Two long sessions were required to write the By-Laws.

In order to assure late comers to Greenbelt a voice in the selection of officers, the first two terms of office were limited to six months. The first officers elected were: Stanley B. Rider, president; Yale B. Huffman, vice-president; Walton O. Cone, treasurer; Louise Endsley, recording secretary; Louis Stevens, corresponding secretary.

Feeling that their new organization should not be confined to the discussion of local political problems, the citizens' association members provided committees for all community activity.

Dances, movies, forums, lectures, and a ballet were sponsored, and soon the infant association was operating with the vigor of a mature, experienced civic group.

A citizens' association is an adequate weapon for the solution of community problems only so long as it can claim popular support. Elected representatives are most receptive to the recommendations of a majority group.

Greenbelt residents concerned with the development of their town have recognized this fact, and are rapidly applying to the Secretary for membership. They are proud of their direct voice in municipal affairs, and have done much toward using this voice effectively.

The first six-month term expired in May and the following persons were elected for the second term of office: Francis J. Lastner, president; Yale B. Huffman, reelected vice president; Bernard D. Gibbons, treasurer; Bertha Bonham, recording secretary; Lydalu Palmer, corresponding secretary.

LADIES' BRIDGE CLUB OF GREENBELT

By Mrs. Alfred C. Lehman, Secretary

Since the beginning of the Ladies' Bridge Club in January, meetings have been held every other Monday in the Social Room of the Greenbelt School.

When the Club was still but a few weeks old, tables were set aside for learners, and the more experienced players began devoting special attention toward instructing and improving the game of these beginners.

Since the inauguration of this plan, attendance has increased to some thirty-five or forty, and additional members, both beginners and regular players, are being welcomed by the club at each meeting.

The regular members take turns in acting as hostesses. Light refreshments are served and prizes are awarded to the winners at play.

The members, who now represent almost every state in the Union, are unanimous in endorsing the Club as a most admirable means for getting acquainted with one's neighbors. The group feels that it has made a step forward in advancing the communal spirit of Greenbelt, which is, in truth, the real purpose of the Club.

CAMERA CLUB SPONSORS CONTEST

By George Fair

With membership steadily increasing, the Camera Club now has more than 30 active members. An important first project of the club is the picture-taking and picture-making contest entitled "Life in Greenbelt".

Week after week, since the twelve original club members sat down together to organize a camera club program, the work of the club has expanded. Now a Junior Camera Club with leadership of Boy Scouts is an additional venture in picture "recording".

One of the first to observe the unusual opportunities for camera fans in Greenbelt was Mrs. Morris Templeman. Her experience in art, and her civic enthusiasm, led her to call the first club meeting and, from that day, about

TOWN ON "NEW FRONTIER" OF NATION

By Dr. W. W. Alexander, Administrator
Farm Security Administration

I am glad to take this opportunity to congratulate the citizens of Greenbelt on their earnest and co-operative efforts to establish a type of community which is, in a very real sense, a new frontier. You are pioneers in a new kind of life, just as truly as your forefathers who opened up this Continent. The development of your community is being watched with intense interest by the entire Nation; your success or failure may have a marked influence on the shape on American culture for many decades to come.

The Farm Security Administration has done its best to establish a sound, carefully planned foundation for your efforts. At best, however, the Government can provide only the shell of a community, the community itself must be built by its citizens; they alone can give it vitality and meaning.

Today the Government's part of the job is almost done. From now on the primary responsibility for Greenbelt rests with its people. There is ample evidence that they have accepted this responsibility with eagerness and enthusiasm--and if this high order of citizenship is maintained, there can be no doubt about the community's success.

two months ago, the club's activities were launched.

The camera club's picture contest ends at 6 p.m. June 21 and all rules for adults and children will uniformly apply.

A tidy little sum of money has been donated for the purpose of providing prizes for the contest. The donation is given anonymously by a generous and interested person.

The next club meeting is to be held above the drug store, Tuesday, June 7, at 8 p. m. There will be a discussion on a junior study plan which includes the taking of pictures, developing, printing, enlarging. Those entering the contest should send all pictures properly identified and sealed. Address P. O. Box 185, Greenbelt, Maryland.

JOURNALISTIC CLUB AND COOPERATOR OFFICERS

By R. S. Sowell

The Greenbelt Journalistic Club was organized on November 11, 1937 when a group of 15 residents who were interested in a community newspaper gathered for the first time in one of the homes to discuss the proposed weekly.

- Started as a Club -

It was decided that the newspaper organization should at least start off as a club and to have its officials serve in their respective offices on the new weekly during the trial-period publication of the first six issues. The Greenbelt Cooperator was the name adopted for the new journal.

- Bessemer Elected President-Editor -

At this first meeting, the newly-formed Journalistic Club elected the following temporary officers: Louis Bessemer, president-editor; William R. Poole, vice president-assistant editor; James Dunaway, treasurer-business manager; R. S. Sowell, secretary.

- Offices Separated -

Upon completion of this first trial period, it was decided to retain the club organization but to separate the offices of the paper from those of the club.

The persons elected on November 11, 1937 remained in their respective offices in the club and a new group was elected on December 29, 1937 to serve on the paper.

- Succeeded by Poole -

The election of the newspaper staff resulted as follows: William R. Poole, editor-in-chief; Samuel Maryn, assistant editor; R. S. Sowell, secretary; Robert D. Hayes, business manager; John McWilliams, production manager.

The tenure of office for this group was two months, or eight issues of the Cooperator.

- Now Volckhausen is Editor -

The third election of the newspaper staff was held in the latter part of February, 1938, at which the following were chosen: W. R. Volckhausen, editor-in-chief; William R. Poole, associate editor; Samuel Maryn, reelected assistant editor; Frank Burr, secretary; Leon Golnick, business manager; John Resnicky,

production manager.

- Changes in the Present Staff -

Mr. Poole has since resigned as associate editor to spend full time with the cooperative committee of the citizens' association and this office has been abolished.

Morris Coff was selected as business manager when Mr. Golnick moved from Greenbelt immediately after his election. Tom Howard is acting as production manager since other activities required Mr. Resnicky's resignation.

The office of secretary is vacant since Guy R. Moore, who became acting secretary when Mr. Burr was given the news editor's post (since resigned because of change in employment), was elected one of the directors of the health association.

- Club's Officers Chosen -

Also, at this election in February, the club's officers were chosen for the second time, as follows: Louis Bessemer, reelected president; Henry Little, vice president; Lydal Palmer, secretary; Herkus Letkomann, treasurer.

Two recent changes have occurred in this group. Mr. Letkomann has resigned and Mr. McWilliams is serving as treasurer. The secretaryship has been taken over by Pauline Trattler since Mrs. Palmer resigned when she became secretary of the citizens' association.

The tenure of office for these two groups will be six months, or until August, 1938.

EDITOR DESCRIBES PIONEER WORK ON GREENBELT WEEKLY

(Continued from Page Twenty-two)

about some other civic problem and signed their names (the perfect crime).

I enjoyed my work on the Cooperator and it was a great experience for me. I learned a lot about the other fellow's views on different issues.

I learned a good deal about the meanings of everyday words which I had not taken time to worry about before. Such words as democracy, cooperation, and organization have heretofore been just words to me, but now I believe I have seen them working very successfully and thoroughly in Greenbelt and I believe they will continue as long as we have one or the other of them.

GREENBELT ATHLETIC CLUB

By George F. Bauer, President

The Greenbelt Athletic Club was officially organized on February 4, 1938, by about 30 men, for the purpose of securing exercise, athletic work and social contact.

The officers elected for the first six months were: George Bauer, president and board member; Robert Marack, vice president and board member; Philip Claxton, secretary; Vernon Hitchcock, treasurer; Frank Drass, custodian.

The executive board members elected were: Irvin Reamy, Block E, Leo Slaughter, Block D; Frank Lastner (resigned), Block C; Mr. Neblett, Block C; Emmet DeVoe, Block J.

The executive board is the ruling body of the club, subject to the approval of the members, who are now nearing the 200 mark.

Competitive sports successfully carried out have been a four-team basketball league and a recent nine-team volley ball league. An all-star basketball team provided competition for out-of-town teams and, though new to each other and lacking the coordination of practice, gave a very creditable account of themselves, to which many in Greenbelt will agree.

At present we have a group of men out practicing baseball and, though lacking a nearby playing field and uniforms, yet are going ahead and promise to turn out a team of which we will all be proud.

On Sunday, May 15, 1938, our softball league got underway, comprised at present of seven teams for the first half and a promise of more for the second half.

Games are played evenings and Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The enthusiasm displayed has been a revelation to everyone. A representative team has been picked and is ready to play against the best in Greenbelt's vicinity.

Handicapped by lack of facilities and means of raising funds, outside of dues, we still feel sure that, with the continued help and cooperation of our City Manager and his assistant, we will surmount these obstacles and give our fellow townsmen more and more reason to feel proud of Greenbelt's Athletic Club.

A FEW GREENBELT "FIRSTS"

First "Town Manager" form of government in Maryland: Greenbelt.

First Community Manager: Roy S. Braden.

First Town Manager: Roy S. Braden.

First Co-Op Store Manager: R. M. Templeman.

First Gas Station Manager: James Dunaway.

First Manager of Co-Op Drug Store: Robert E. Jacobsen.

First Party: Hallows'en celebration, October 30, 1937.

First Thanksgiving Day celebration: November 25, 1937.

First Greenbelt Postmaster: George W. Bryant.

First five Councilman: Sherrod E. East, H. H. Maurer, Louis Bessemer, Allen D. Morrison, and Robert E. Jacobsen.

First Mayor: Louis Bessemer.

First Mayor Pro Tem: H. H. Maurer.

First President of Greenbelt Citizens' Association: Stanley B. Rider.

First town election: November 23, 1937.

First woman to cast a ballot in first election: Mrs. F. White.

First man to cast a ballot in first election: James W. Burke.

First baby: Sonya Fulmer.

First bachelor to announce matrimonial intentions: Robert E. Jacobsen.

First news weekly: Greenbelt Cooperator.

First grocery order purchased at first store: F. N. Reed.

First family to move into Greenbelt: That of Sgt. Julian Ashley (on September 30, 1937).

First Charter Day Edition of Cooperator: June 1, 1938.

Homes in Greenbelt are built in a variety of types and sizes to fit varying family needs. In Greenbelt 574 homes are group or row houses, which are less expensive than detached types; 306 are apartments and five are detached houses, built as an experiment in prefabrication.

THE GREENBELT COOPERATOR STAFF

By R. S. Sowell

To publish a mimeographed weekly such as the Greenbelt Cooperator requires considerable time and effort on the part of a number of people.

- Elective Positions -

The editor, assistant editor, secretary, business manager, and production manager are elected by the club but there are several other vital positions on the newspaper staff that are appointive (by the editor).

Although the editor receives most of the credit (and the blame) for articles appearing in the Cooperator, he can't efficiently perform all of the many duties necessitated by the writing of editorials, making assignments, and editing.

- The Work -

In this work, he is, of course, assisted by the assistant editor. The secretary looks after the typing; the business manager has a real "headache" securing ads and then collecting for them, buying supplies, looking after the circulation and collections, and keeping books; the production manager either runs the mimeograph machine or gets assistants to do so, and sees that the paper is assembled and stapled by delivery time.

Besides these elective staff members there are the following appointive staff positions.

- Appointive Positions -

A news editor is essential. Since its inception, the Cooperator has had four news editors: William R. Poole, Samuel Maryn, Frank Burr, and at present Howard C. Custer.

- Feature Editor -

For a good many weeks the Cooperator had a feature editor. This position has now been temporarily set aside.

The feature editors have been Arthur A. Dickerman, W. R. Volckhausen, and Howard C. Custer.

- Mrs. Greenbelt -

The "Mrs. Greenbelt" section of the Cooperator is under the jurisdiction of a women's editor.

Ruth G. Hayes set up this department and edited it during the two trial periods of 14 weeks (first issue through

February, 1938) when Elizabeth Little, the present incumbent, was appointed.

- New Features -

Only recently two new features have been added to the Cooperator. One is a Greenbelt High School section with Marita Freeman as editor. The other is the Children's Page which is edited by Dorothy East.

Several weeks ago a new department-- Sports-- was set up in the Cooperator with Clifton J. Cockill as its editor. Mr. Cockill resigned recently because of a change in his employment and George Carnes is now a member of the staff as sports editor.

- Behind-the-Scenes Workers -

And when one refers to the "staff" of the newspaper he can't ignore all of those "behind-the-scenes" workers, such as reporters, typists, stencil cutters, mimeograph operators, mimeoscope artists, staplers, and delivery boys, all of whom have done a tremendous amount of very efficient work in behalf of the Cooperator.

- Boy Scouts -

While the Boy Scouts deliver the Cooperator to the residents, they are not considered staff members.

The Journalistic Club has an arrangement with the scout troop whereby the boys do all of the delivering and collecting and the club has nothing to do with it.

Thus the entire job of circulation is vested in the troop with the scoutmaster acting as circulation manager.

The scouts receive two cents for each paper delivered and it is thus to their advantage to have as many customers as they can.

The money earned in this way goes toward the purchase of uniforms for the boys.

All homes in Greenbelt are simple in design, but efficient and modern. All meet strict standards of comfort, ventilation, sanitation and privacy, and all are built to stand 75 years or more with lowest possible maintenance costs.

THE TOWN CHARTER AND LABOR RELATIONS IN GREENBELT

By Bernard J. Bordenet

It is gratifying to find that in Greenbelt, at least, nepotism in the town government on the part of the Councilmen is forbidden by the town charter. Councilmen are prohibited from interfering in the appointment or removal of any officer or employee of the town government. (Sec. 36.) Any attempt to do so is a misdemeanor.

However, the charter does not prohibit (and probably could not) other Maryland politicians, Congressmen, or Federal officers from attempting a like interference. No Councilman will have occasion to be told that "There are other tax payers in town besides the ----- family."

No Councilman himself "shall, during the time for which he is elected, be appointed to any office or position in the service of the Town." (Sec. 35.) Nor shall any "officer or employee in the service of the Town....continue in such position after becoming a candidate for nomination or election to any public office." (Sec. 35.)

Greenbelt is protected against local nepotism by the appointment by the Council of a Town Manager (Sec. 33.), in whom is vested the power of appointment and removal of all officers and employees of the town. (Sec. 34.) "Appointments made by the Town Manager shall be on the basis of executive and administrative ability and of the training and experience of such appointees in the work which they are to perform." (Sec. 34.)

-Best Provisions-

The prohibition of local nepotism is one of the best provisions of the town charter. However, this is nullified somewhat by the provision that the Town Manager, and the Town Manager alone (Sec. 34.) with direct restraint "shall have the power to....remove all officers and employees" of the town. Thus dismissal of employees is, theoretically at least, left entirely to the discretion of the Town Manager, who may remove the Town Solicitor, e.g. "at will without notice." (Sec. 43.) However,

(Continued next column)

arbitrary or unjust the dismissal of an employee of the town by the Town Manager may be, there is probably no remedy available in law.

The Town Manager can dismiss employees for personal reasons, or for no reason at all. There is no direct restraint placed upon him by the charter. "The decision of the Manager shall be final and there shall be no appeal therefrom to any other office, body or court whatsoever." (Sec. 34)

Human nature being what it is, such arbitrary power should be left in the hands of no man.

This is not to say that any employee would be unjustly or arbitrarily dismissed by the Town Manager.

-Direct Intervention-

While direct intervention in the dismissal of employees is denied to the Council there are two indirect courses available: (1) The Council can diligently inquire into the views on labor relations held by any candidate for the office of Town Manager and withhold appointment from any candidate whose views on labor relations are likely to result in unjust dismissal of any town employee. (2) By its "power to inquire into the conduct of any officer or officer of the Town" and by its power of removal of the Town Manager, the Council can indirectly place restraint upon him.

However effective this restraint may or may not be, and although the charter denies a direct remedy in the courts, there are nevertheless several other practicable remedies available. Protection of employees against unreasonable or unjust discharge is one of the functions of the legitimate labor union.

However, if the Town Manager is a fair minded man, he should be willing voluntarily to submit the matter of removal of an employee to a competent, disinterested and just arbitrator acceptable to both parties, if the employee feels justified in requesting arbitration.

If the employee was fairly dismissed a qualified arbitrator would uphold the action of the Town Manager; if the dismissal were found to be unfair, the Town Manager could not reasonably ob-

(Continued on Page Nineteen)

THE TOWN CHARTER AND LABOR RELATIONS IN GREENBELT

(Continued from Page 18)

ject to the reinstatement of said employee.

The officers and employees of the town, however, are denied by the charter any such privilege as an open hearing. In denying an open hearing to dismissed officers and employees, the Maryland legislature in granting the charter failed to take cognizance of the essential quality of all men, insisted upon in the Declaration of Independence.

It should be noted that the Town Manager is not likely to be dependent upon his office for a livelihood. The same cannot be said of other employees of the town. To strike at a man's job unreasonably and unfairly in this age of industrial feudalism and widespread unemployment is little less than an assault upon his life and that of his family. He therefore needs protection. May just labor relations always prevail in Greenbelt.

THE EDITORS' REGRET

The Editors of this Charter Day Supplement of the Greenbelt Cooperator regret very much that the organizations and activities in our community are not as fully covered as we had hoped they would be.

We sent out requests for articles to all organizations, and to many individuals for special articles, but some of the people did not "come through."

Consequently, no articles appear in this Special Supplement for such organizations as the Credit Union, Widows' Club, Cubs, Girl Scouts, Brownies, Parkbelt Project, Young Peoples Society, Bide-A-Wee Club, and Hobby Club.

Also, we had hoped for a special article from the New York office of the Consumer Distribution Corporation, from the housewives on their civic problems, from the Catholic Church on its Greenbelt program and discussion groups, from the postmaster, from the physician, and from the dentist.

PLANNERS LOOK AT "GARDEN CITIES"

Planners and municipal experts in this country are studying interestedly the success of England's two outstanding "garden cities"--Letchworth and Welwyn. One of the short but absorbing chapters in the history of modern city building, or city planning as it is called in the United States, is the movement for garden cities, a term scarcely known in its accurate technical sense by the general American public.

The nearest thing to the English garden city in this country are the three Resettlement Administration "green-belt" towns built in open country near Cincinnati, Milwaukee and Washington, D. C. Although the Federal government built and holds title to these cities, it is expected that they may ultimately be locally owned and operated, perhaps along the English garden city lines, with all land held in trust by a city corporation and property leased to private holders. Leases in Letchworth, England, the first garden city in the world, are for 999 years.

Met with public indifference when they opened, Letchworth and Welwyn now are thriving and never have seen a real depression. It is found that they have certain advantages over towns and are spared certain troubles, ills, expenses and inconveniences. These conditions are cited today: Stable property values; absence of vehicular and traffic congestion; no so-called "blighted areas" adequate areas for play and leisure time; separation of homes, stores and factories with orderly arrangement and room for expansion.

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Another article would have been instructive concerning our gardens.

We realize that everyone in Greenbelt is very busy, but wouldn't it have made the Charter Day Supplement more complete if we had received articles on all of the activities listed above?

THE COOPERATOR HAS RECEIVED
OUTSIDE ATTENTION

By R. S. Sowell

Greenbelt's own mimeographed weekly newspaper, the Cooperator, has received widespread publicity in the press.

- Sally Rand Article -

The first issue, which contained 16 pages and was published on November 24, 1937, received the most mention because in it was published a letter to the Community Manager signed "Sally Rand" in which someone, as yet unidentified, complained of her "brazen outdoor clotheslines."

It was claimed that she had to hide her "crimson face" in a "dark closet after hanging out my first public wash" because she "could imagine the passers-by discussing each item." Previously she had "dried my little tid-bits of intimate apparel on the towel rack in the bathroom," the letter stated.

- Requests from Afar -

The "Sally Rand" story appeared in newspapers as far away as Denver, Colorado, and requests for copies of the Cooperator were received from many places, including Arizona.

The Greenbelt Weekly has also received considerable attention and encouragement from some of the Nation's more important leaders.

- Mrs. Roosevelt -

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, when informed of the Greenbelt Cooperator and told something of its history, wrote a letter expressing her interest "in the fact that you have formed a journalistic club and will carry this venture through on a cooperative, voluntary basis."

- Secretary Wallace -

Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace reads the Cooperator because he is "interested in watching what you are doing with the publication and what the people at Greenbelt are accomplishing."

- Dr. Tugwell -

Dr. Rexford G. Tugwell, who was instrumental in planning Greenbelt, likes the Cooperator because "in that way I can follow the development of Greenbelt"

- Mr. Lansill -

John S. Lansill, assistant adminis-

trator of the Farm Security Administration and director of the Greenbelt Town Program, reads "every word in every issue" of the paper in an effort to find answers to the question that "has ever been constantly in the minds of my associates and myself in the making of each plan and every decision."

The question: "Will the first residents of Greenbelt approve it?"

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

By Loretta Alderton

On Thursday December 16, 1937, with an enrollment of 70 pupils in the Greenbelt Elementary school, the parents and teachers met to organize a Parent-Teachers Association, whose primary purpose was the coordinating of the work of the home, school, and community in the interest of the welfare of the children.

At the January meeting, after the adoption of By-Laws, the following officers took over the direction of the Association: President, Mr. Dudley Peeler; Vice resident, Miss Maidie Craig; Secretary, Mrs. Lydalu Palmer and Treasurer, Mrs. O. M. Johnson.

In February a poll was conducted to determine the peoples' choices in committee work, and the type of program preferred. The program committee selected topics which would bring a whole body of knowledge to parents and teachers alike, thereby hoping to contribute to the daily living of children through correct interpretation and tolerant understanding of this thing called education.

Parent-Teacher work, as an educational force is proving its worth in Greenbelt. P-T-A began with 26 charter members and today has a paid up membership of 81.

The Association is looking forward to playing a vital and understanding part in the school program next year.

In selecting a site for Greenbelt, a careful study of social and economic conditions among the people of Washington was made. Studies were made also in 100 other American cities.

PRESS RELATIONS MAN FOUND "OVER-WORKED TOBACCO LAND" IN COUNTY
WHERE TOWN PLANNERS AND ENGINEERS STARTED WORK IN 1935

Baxter Reports on Fight Against an "Incredulous Public Opinion"
When Prof. Tugwell's Associates Were Mocked as Idle Dreamers

By W. F. Baxter
(Information Division F. S. A.)

Less than three years ago, the Resettlement Administration stated its basic program for the construction of the Greenbelt experimental towns. All of you have doubtlessly seen or read these principles. How well they were followed is amply demonstrated by the houses you live in, the lawns, the trees and the shrubs; the parks in which your children play, the stores in which you buy, the community building in which you hold your meetings.

To those of us, who in the Spring of 1935, visited the site of Greenbelt, Maryland, and saw the wind blowing away top-soil, who saw only 10,000 acres of over-worked tobacco land, it is apparent that only Mr. Wallace Richards and Mr. Hale Walker, the town planners, were able to visualize the Greenbelt of today. To those two men and the others who dreamed of, planned and constructed this town, the residents of Greenbelt owe an everlasting debt. They fought against an incredulous public opinion. They were mocked as idle dreamers. But against those handicaps, they fought and how great a victory they won must be decided by the people of Greenbelt alone.

In a moment of relaxation, it is pleasant to think back upon the site of your town as it appeared in 1935. Unkept trees surrounded by knee-high weeds, the wind swirling dust across the area on which now stands the business center. The land was poor. Years of intensive tobacco planting had robbed it of its richness. There were no parks, no playgrounds and no lake. As I looked at the site, I wondered to myself. Can this really be the site of America's first planned village? Can a town actually be constructed and will that town be ready for occupancy within three or four years?

As I watched Greenbelt grow, I saw my questions being answered. A town can be planned before its first resident moves in. To those of you who waited anxiously for a home here, the interim may have seemed unending. To us, the growth of the town has been phenomenal. I wonder how many of you realize the debt you owe Dr. Tugwell, Mr. Lansill, Mr. Richards, Mr. Walker and every architect, engineer and brick layer who assisted in making these homes possible. Three years aren't so many after all.

The Federal government has presented you with the physical necessities for a town. Your three years have started. As one who watched the town grow, I hope that you may be as successful in the next three years in your obligations as Mr. Lansill, Mr. Richards and Walker were in theirs. And I hope that I shall be watching you build your community as I watched workmen build your houses.

TOWN COUNCIL EXAMINES 65 DESIGNS FOR OFFICIAL FLAG AND SEAL

Readers of the Charter Day Edition may learn how Greenbelt has acquired a town flag and a town seal. These official emblems are the result of careful thought and widespread interest on the part of Greenbelt citizens.

About the middle of March, 1938, Town Manager Roy S. Braden received a proposal from an out-of-town correspondent that "several designs sent you" be considered "for possible use as official flag and seal" for the Town of Greenbelt. Manager Braden asked the Councilmen what they thought about the idea.

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CULTURAL INFLUENCES IN GREENBELT

--

(Continued from Page Twenty-three)
their plants and flower beds.

Mr. McGregor has built up a nursery since the project began the work of clearing out the brush, and removing trees and plants.

With the beckoning days of summer, almost every evening entire families may be seen laden with garden tools, making their way to the garden areas. Already 306 home gardens are under cultivation, approximately one to every two families in Greenbelt at present.

The residents are alert enough to ask questions, attend meetings, and they are persistently seeking answers. That is one reason why the town has a lively mimeographed weekly and gets out numerous bulletins for volunteer organizations.

PLANNERS LOOK AT "GARDEN CITIES"

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(Continued from Page 19)

Most of the townspeople live within walking distance of their work. The towns are surrounded by an agricultural belt, instead of a ring of defunct or partly built-up subdivisions. Their industries are thriving and new ones are drawn by 1) factory locations near a big city but without London's disadvantages; 2) workers living in surroundings conducive to health and contentment; 3) a municipal government which seeks a proper balance between the main elements of community life, and which provides an efficient, economical, attractive town, with a plan for every future step.

Allentown, Pa., Call, Aug. 7, 1937.

COPY BOY SENDS IN WORD ON TOWN

Dore odityer: Kin I tel yu how much I like to work in this town. I like to. I like yur paper fine beekauz I work on it. Once I read in a Kopy of the Kooperator that a gentlemun named Dr. Tugwell with some BIG THOUGHTS in his head helped build thiz town. He wuz helped by such big fellers as Richard Wallace, Harold Bursley, princi-pul Engineer; and by such smart planners as Hale Walker. I read that Roginald J. Wadsworth, and Douglas D. Ellington, ko-princi-pul arkitek, drew pik-tures on lots of paper befor arrivin at konklusions. We love our President and all you pee-pul. (Sgd) Rae S. Sowell, Jr., Age 5.

First Kopy Boy.

Twenty-two

EDITOR DESCRIBES PIONEER WORK ON GREENBELT WEEKLY

--

By William R. Poole
(Former Editor, Cooperator)

I took the reins of the Cooperator with little journalistic experience other than a weekly column in a country newspaper back home. I wasn't afraid though because the Cooperator was just a hometown paper and if one switched his nouns and pronouns a bit it wasn't so bad a breach.

One of my greatest worries was the feature writer who invariably would insist that we add a page in order to include every paragraph that he had written. No matter how much repetition there was, the paragraph I had cut was the most important; it was the life-blood of the story.

These feature writers were important though; I believe we have learned a good deal about Greenbelt from the stories that they have gone to the trouble of digging up. Some of them burned the midnight oil to turn out these masterpieces.

The composing staff, however, didn't have any oil to burn in the cold months of January and February. We had offices over the Food Store then and the heating system had not been installed. We looked like members of the Byrd expedition as we sat around punching typewriters, buried in heavy overcoats. Some of them can tell you what the winter atmosphere felt like at three o'clock in the morning too.

Numerous letters came in to the editor that were never printed, some about dogs, others having to do with an encyclopedia fraud we had exposed, and some very elaborate plans for group health.

It was interesting to note that the writer of one letter, which predicted our doom when we started charging five cents for the paper, is now much interested in the paper's finances. Another who wrote that we should change the name of the paper and finally ended his letter by saying it was a scandal sheet, is now one of its greatest crusaders.

Some wrote unsigned letters to the editor criticizing the paper for printing letters on dogs, and then on the same typewriter wrote constructive letters

(Continued on Page Fifteen)

CULTURAL INFLUENCES IN GREENBELT

By Dorothy Rider

In October, 1937, the handful of Greenbelt pioneers introduced themselves to one another as they met at the embryonic grocery, or at the Post Office.

Greenbelt's social events opened with a Hallowe'en party and community singing. On the same occasion there was a spider web competition, an apple bobbing and a parade of costumed children at which Town Manager Roy S. Braden served as master of ceremonies.

This was followed by monthly dances where new neighbors met frequently for the first time and where new friendships were established.

The Citizens' Association is a sort of "town hall" where residents have been developing self-expression and by all means, better understanding of parliamentary procedure. There is a growing interest in economic, social, and civic problems of the county and state.

Miss Ollie Hoffman has exerted more cultural influence on the side of consumer economics than any one person in Greenbelt. Coming here to aid the consumer educational program, she has worked with the public schools, the cooperative stores, the discussion groups, and has visited many persons in their homes, a few of whom she found hampered by loneliness.

Her visits awakened interest in progressive ideas, provoked questions on consumer problems, and soon Miss Hoffman watched the development of study groups, where women shoppers learned how to get their money's worth.

Personnel of the Cooperative stores have come to the community splendidly equipped from an educational point of view and have had such advantages as travel, and experience in group leadership.

Several residents possess unusual collections of phonograph records, several are accomplished musicians and have volunteered their services as vocalists, pianists, and one has held community song festivals in his home. One is a capable organist.

(Continued next column)

- P-T-A and G. C. A. Helped -

The Citizens Association provided movies for a few weeks; parties have been held in homes and at the community center.

The Parent Teachers Association and the mothers clubs are clearing houses for problems confronting every mother and teacher.

The Greenbelt Civic Forum has brought outstanding speakers to lead discussions on current political issues. Citizens have indicated a lively interest by their questions from the floor. Such meetings, it is hoped, will prevent the natural inclination towards provincialism attending pioneer developments.

- Dance Group and Theatre -

Miss Lisa Gardiner's performance with some of her company is the town's sole experience with the ballet. This dance recital drew an appreciative audience; interpretations and historical features of the ballet were outlined.

Greenbelt Players, a little theater, gave its first production in May. Consisting of three one-act plays, which boasted better interpretation than one might expect from a new company. The work-shop department is preparing a membership production and the play selection committee is searching for three new one-act plays. This group is enthusiastic, flexible, and congenial.

Eight women, and one man, (gifted as musicians) and one who has published poems; three who wrote a playlet; and fifteen interested in dramatic interpretations gave an entertainment entirely of and for the women of Greenbelt at a get-acquainted party, May 19.

During colorful Spring days, hikers may be seen in groups. Camera club members are on the trail of beautiful scenes--or seeking ways of portraying Greenbelt personalities and projects. Camera enthusiasts are discussing technical problems, and working out plans for a pictorial competition.

- Gardens and Glee Club -

While a number of citizens choose to participate in a Men's Glee Club, others show preference to gardening. Many have called on Greenbelt's garden authority, Mr. McGregor--and have learned how to make the best use of

(Continued on Page 22)

HOW GREENBELT CO-OPS ORIGINATED

By Peter J. Carroll

The problem of establishing a cooperative in Greenbelt presents to those undertaking the work a new and unbroken field without precedent.

It is unusual in that the preliminary steps of its formation were taken before even a single resident had settled in Greenbelt and its future citizens were unseen and unknown.

In August 1937, the Consumer Distribution Corp., founded by the late Edward A. Filone, leased from the Government, the business center of Greenbelt, upon condition that it would one day assign the lease and turn over ownership of the established businesses to a cooperative. Pending that event any earnings over expenses were to be returned to the residents or held in trust for the cooperative when formed.

On September 30 the first resident moved into Greenbelt but it was not until the end of November, when there were about 150 families in town, that it was suggested to us to make a start.

I remember the day well. It was Sunday afternoon, the 28th of November, the day after I moved into Greenbelt, that I attended a meeting along with fifty others who had come in response to an invitation extended by means of a mimeographed hand bill left at the door.

I did not know a person present but I listened to Messrs. Herbert E. Evans and Flint Garrison, members of the CDC Board of Directors. They explained that it was their desire to surrender ownership of Greenbelt business enterprises to us. When I realized they really meant it, I began to take notice of those about me and to hope I could know them; I hoped that we might be friends and work toward the realization of this dream.

At the meeting, Mr. Evans suggested to Stanley Ridor, president of the Citizens' Association at that time, that an advisory committee of citizens be formed to act in the interests of our residents in consulting with the management of the stores concerning our needs and desires.

The committee was formed and its work began shortly before Christmas, 1937.

- The Co-Op Committees at Work -
Once the committees were organized, cooperation in Greenbelt was on the march. Consumer discussion groups were formed and eventually committees on each of the business enterprises. The management came in for frequent consultations.

Thirty or more Greenbeltians are now engaged in specialized committee work and approximately 150 are participating in discussion groups. Greenbelt population has reached 616 families, or 2300 people, at this writing.

When 400 families had settled in Greenbelt, members of the Advisory Committee decided that a more definite and more democratic plan should be put in operation.

Consequently it was proposed to the Citizens in March, 1938, that a Cooperative Organizing of nine members be elected and that it serve until such time as a cooperative mercantile system was formed.

Four members of the Committee were to be elected for one year terms and the remaining five for six months. After minor changes were made the plan was unanimously adopted.

The election was held and the Committee continued the work where the Advisory Committee had left off.

There are now nearly fifty citizens serving on the Cooperative Organizing Committee and its sub-committees and Greenbelt is fast nearing the attainment of cooperative ownership of its retail enterprises and movie theater. Sale of shares will begin late in the fall of 1938 and before 1939 becomes history it will be recorded that Greenbelt has attained a successful Consumer's Cooperative.

GOOD DEMONSTRATION - NO PANACEA

Greenbelt housing is not a panacea, for satisfying our housing needs but it does serve as a notable demonstration in town planning. This demonstration deserves the attention of all persons interested in better housing, in new civic patterns of life and in future town planning in America. -- Taken from Planning & Civic Comment, July-Sept. 1937 Vol. 3 No. 3.

GREENBELT'S CONTEMPORARY HOMES BUILT FOR USE -- FINANCIAL SPECULATION AVOIDED

By O. Klein Fulmer, Architect,
Assistant Community Manager

It would be a mistake to describe the architecture of Greenbelt as this or that "style" because there was no conscious effort to follow any set precedent in the design of the buildings. The architecture of Greenbelt, as you see it today, is the result of working out a solution to certain known problems to the best of the architect's ability.

- Selection of Site -

In the beginning, the planners were confronted with the necessity for selecting a site far enough from town to be clear of previous attempts at speculative subdividing which not only greatly increased the price of the land, but made it practically impossible to have a free hand in planning the town due to existing pattern of street or utility layout.

- Planning Layout -

Once the land was found, there was the problem of planning the traffic circulation, water and sewer layouts, etc., with the prevailing motive of economy and use rather than "land speculation." Other problems were to design park space as an integral part of the community; to arrive at a plot plan sufficiently flexible to avoid destroying numerous large trees; and to design dwelling units of sufficiently simple construction to allow the use of relief labor.

- Planning Houses -

The dwelling units had to be designed so as to require a minimum of maintenance in order to keep rents low, but had to be sufficiently spacious and attractive to insure complete occupancy.

The houses had to be designed for rent instead of sale; they had to be designed for economical construction and they had to be sufficiently flexible to allow for various family compositions and for family growth and expansion.

- Problem of Architecture -

There could not be too much variety in the unit plans or the economies resulting from duplication would be lost. In other words, the architects were confronted with the necessity for balancing the economic, social, and physical factors with the living amenities required, and at the same time to incorporate the practical elements of efficiency, economy, durability and comfort.

- "Functional" Architecture -

The "style" of architecture resulting from the solution of these problems might be termed "functional" if you must put a name to it. "Contemporary" is also another name which could be used truthfully as a description of the style, but any other name, such as English, Modernistic, Continental, etc., implies a false stylizing of surface treatment that is entirely erroneous.

TOWN COUNCIL EXAMINES 65 DESIGNS FOR OFFICIAL FLAG AND SEAL

(Continued from Page 21)

Councilmen immediately requested Sherrard East to draw up rules for an official contest. Rules were unanimously adopted and announced in the Greenbelt Cooperator March 30, 1938. By May 14, at the close of the contest, Council had received 65 designs for a town flag and a town seal. Three committee meetings and one open public meeting were held before final results were announced at midnight, May 25. Prizes were limited to Greenbelt citizens. First prize for a town seal went to Mrs. Robert M. Templeman, and second prize to Harry Falls. First prize for a design for a town flag went to Miss Mary Clare Bonham, Greenbelt high school girl, and second prize to Mr. Marjan P. Staniec.

U. S. MEAT GRADING HELPS CO-OP
ELIMINATE SPECULATION IN FOOD

(Continued from Page 27)

ager, Sulo Laakso, began immediately to handle all Government graded meats. And it was through Mr. Laakso's efforts to give his customers the best service possible that Greenbelt has gained the distinction of being "The first consumer group in the United States to apply the principle of voluntary buying and selling meats on basis of Federal Standards in a general way through their own store."

Mr. C. V. Whalin of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in a letter to Robert E. Jacobsen, Assistant Manager, Greenbelt Consumer Services, Inc., said: "Aside from the immediate benefit Federal meat grading is expected to be to consumers at Greenbelt, the principle ... when applied by large groups may be far reaching in informing producers as to the real demands of consumers and how best to meet those demands."

This not only proved to be a point of good service for the Greenbelt Cooperative Food Store but sales increased and consequently a larger variety of meats was available to the patrons.

Mr. Jacobsen in a letter to Mr. Whalin stated: "I am sure that the 300 housewives who attended the demonstration have gained more confidence in our meat department than we could have built in a good while. I believe that the constant sale of U. S. graded meat will increase consumer confidence and patronage. "This service has aided us in applying fair selling prices and in obtaining fair buying prices for meats, thus eliminating a good deal of speculation and personal inspection of the product."

Inquiries have come in to Mr. Laakso from New York, New Jersey and other points in the East about this valuable service.

Rochdale Stores Cooperative in Washington, D. C., has "followed suit" and is now handling meats graded by Federal standards.

Recently consumer leaders from Greenbelt were asked to meet with officers of the American National Livestock Association at a conference in the Bureau of

(Concluded next column)

CUSTER'S LAST STAND

Volume 1 Number 14a

By Howard C. Custer

This column, which appears regularly in the Cooperator, is the outgrowth of a skirmish I had with encyclopedia salesmen in the early days of Greenbelt.

The salesmen were trying to "give" us an old, slightly revised encyclopedia. The only string attached was that we had to subscribe to a revision service (three dollars per month for months and months). The string made the offer a poor buy; certainly no "give-away."

With the help of the Cooperator, I warned the community, drew a retraction from the company, and earned from Assistant Editor Maryn the suggestion that my observations continue to grace the local columns.

So gradually I took up my "Stand," my "Last" one, if you please. How lasting it will be I don't know. From the tomahawks that have been flying about my head lately, my future seems precarious; but my scalp is tough and I have a heavy mop of hair to protect it (until lately I have bewailed the fate that gave me the kind of hair I have).

One thing about the column, it seems to be read. Among its readers there seems to be at least two schools of thought. One thinks it a social force, a good influence, a bright blaze in the welter of darkness that surrounds us--some even think it entertaining. The other group thinks thoughts about it that plague my sleep and stalk my waking steps.

Personally, I have no exalted idea of my column's importance. I merely think that there are some things of concern to the community not yet said that need saying, and I propose to say some few of them, if my Last Stand lasts that long.

Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture, where there were various other groups represented, to discuss legislation that would require all beef which carried a trademark to carry also the U. S. grade.

William R. Poole

GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH

By Mrs. O. M. Johnson, Secretary

It seems to us decidedly impractical to build several Protestant churches in such an unusual community as Greenbelt. Dr. Worth M. Tippy, Secretary of the Federal Council of Churches, conferred with interested Government officials and Mr. Roy Braden, Community Manager, regarding a community church.

It was agreed that the Committee on Comity of the Washington Federation of Churches should be asked to assist in making necessary arrangements for community services, with Dr. G. E. Williams and Dr. W. L. Darby in charge of relations at Greenbelt. Through the courtesy of the Farm Security Administration, permission was given to hold services each Sunday in the Community Building.

The first regular church service was held November 14, 1937. Dr. W. M. Tippy conducted the service and there was an attendance of 166. A local choir of ten mixed voices furnished the music with Mrs. George Barr as pianist and Mrs. O. M. Johnson as director. A pulpit and other essential furnishings were provided by the kindness of friends.

The first communion service was held March 6, 1938 with Rev. A. B. Matzen of Berwyn conducting.

Washington ministers of different faiths were supplied by the Washington Federation of Churches except when visits were made by the prospective ministers.

A church nursery has been in operation since December 19 under the supervision of Mrs. Edward Halley.

On December 30, 1937 Dr. W. M. Tippy called the first meeting of a temporary committee on church organization. Its members were Prof. Linden S. Dodson, chairman; Harry Falls, secretary; Mrs. Oscar M. Johnson, treasurer and choir director; Mrs. George Barr, organist; Harry E. Hesse, chief of ushers; Louis Bossemor; Robert Dove; Edward Halley; L. W. Worley; Robert Jacobson; Mrs. Helen Cowell; Fred Wilde; and George Eshbaugh.

On April 24, 1938 the church congregation selected R. L. Kincheloe of the Rochester (New York) Divinity School as its pastor. He will arrive in Greenbelt June 2 to begin his pastorate.

The church plans to provide a real community church where all denominations can worship together (yet if they wish, retain their own denominational views).

Mrs. L. D. Schmidt has been appointed chairman of the permanent membership committee and Mr. George Eshbaugh has been selected as chairman of the finance committee. Both committees are working hard to obtain a thorough canvass of interested families.

The first Sunday School service was held November 21, 1937 with Dr. Dodson as superintendent and an attendance of 61. Dr. Dodson was temporary superintendent until March 3, 1938 when the following officers were elected:

L. W. Worley, superintendent; Robert Dove, assistant superintendent; Mrs. Edward Halley, secretary; Edward Halley, treasurer. At present there are 26 teachers and an average attendance of 245.

U. S. MEAT GRADING HELPS CO-OP ELIMINATE "SPECULATION" IN FOOD

On March 4, 1938 approximately 300 Greenbelt housewives attended an illustrated demonstration of Federal meat grades in the school auditorium.

Their purpose - to learn something about meats, something about the main course of nearly every meal.

Little did these women know about the Government grading service for meats, the standards they had set and the rigid tests they had made. But the housewives soon realized the need for such a service as this after seeing the wax reproductions of the various qualities of beef.

These women decided then and there that no more will they simply ask the meat man: "Is the meat tender?" Instead their question to the man behind the counter will be: "Is the meat of good quality?" and if so where is the proof? The proof lies in the Government grade stamped thereon.

The Greenbelt housewife knows now that this stamp will tell her something about the meat's tenderness and palatability and whether the bones are very large.

Due to Greenbelt's enthusiastic acceptance of so valuable a service the Cooperative Food Store Through its man-

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EXPANSION OF BUS SERVICE

By Robert R. Porter

The transportation service between Greenbelt and Washington is furnished by the Capital Transit Company and is subsidized by the Farm Security Administration for one year.

Recently a meeting was held in the school where this service was discussed. In that meeting a motion was made and carried for Mr. Braden to appoint a committee of five (to be known as the Greenbelt Transportation Advisory Committee) to negotiate for the people of Greenbelt with the Farm Security Administration on bus service. Mr. William J. McKay, from "B" area, Mr. Eric Fundin, from "C" area, Mrs. Miriam Provost, from "D" area, Mr. Frank Donoghue, from "F" area and myself were appointed to serve on that committee.

We immediately appealed to the Farm Security Administration to expand the service on the theory that if the service is adequate enough the people will patronize it. The service must have patronage to reduce the subsidy. As a result of this appeal, Mr. Braden immediately negotiated with the Capital Transit Company and the new schedule, now in effect, is the result.

More service at night, a special shuttle bus in the morning for the shoppers which leaves in time to get a car that arrives down town before the stores open, and many other features have been included in the schedule. This service will only remain if patronage increases--it will be discontinued if not. That is the condition upon which the Administration agreed to expand the service.

With this Charter Day Edition of the Cooperator, we should start to patronize our transportation service in order to have one at all times. It needs the full support of every citizen in Greenbelt because without it we would literally be on an island and be required to depend on the kindness of our neighbors to get to and from our jobs in Washington. If you have any legitimate criticism to make on the service, we, of the Transportation Advisory Committee, will do all we can to bring it to the attention of all concerned.

GREENBELT FURNITURE

By Wallace F. Mabee

The special Skills Division of the Resettlement Administration designed various sets of furniture of a type that they considered most appropriate for furnishing the homes at Greenbelt.

This Division employed the services of many modern designers, skilled craftsmen, and trained interior decorators.

The various pieces of furniture were designed with careful thought of the utility as well as appearance. Many samples were made and the merits of each item were carefully considered and compared in the effort to assemble complete sets of quality furniture, reasonably priced, and of a modern design that would be of practical value, adaptable of arrangement to favor the varied tastes of the individual owners.

The samples or drawings of samples that were finally accepted and approved were submitted to various furniture manufacturers throughout the country and bids were obtained on quantity production. Orders were placed for quantities that, at the time, were considered sufficient to supply the requirements of Greenbelt and other projects that were to have the benefit of this service.

In the case of Greenbelt, the demand for this furniture greatly exceeded all expectations and it was necessary to repeat the procedure of obtaining bids from furniture factories and the issuance of contracts for a second order. This greatly delayed the delivery of full sets to the various projects, including Greenbelt, but, at this time, all orders have been placed and every effort is being made to rush delivery of the important items that many families need to complete the furnishing of their homes.

This furniture service is one of the many extended to the residents of Greenbelt and other similar Resettlement projects. It is sold at manufacturers price, plus handling and delivery expense, and may be purchased on monthly payments.

GREENBELT STAMPEDE SONG

--
(Parody on "The Texas Cowboy
Stampede")

We're going to leave fair Washington,
We'll turn our steps toward the
Greenbelt sun.
They've shaved and paved the plot we
range,
Our playmates all now seem so
strange.
We'll take our hoe and take our rake,
And leave behind our city gate.
A soft, soft mat will be our bed,
A pillow soft shall hold our head.
And when we waken from our dreams,
We'll eat our spinach and our beans.
And when our daily tasks are done,
To Greenbelt town we'll surely come.
And when we leave dear Washington
We'll take our chance with the
Ruling One.
Just tell Roy Braden that we know,
A Johnston's page aint white as snow,
But in that Diplomatic Land
He sometimes acted like a man.
So when we leave fair Washington,
We'll catch the bus for the Green-
belt run.
Its winding paths with joy we'll roam,
Glad to find our future home.
We'll not be missed by the Senators
The sad, sad ones are the Realtors.
The newest friends, and friends of yore
Will find a welcome at our door,
Be they jolly or sedate
Or vexed by any cares of State.
And may they all great pleasure take
In strolling 'round the Greenbelt
lake.

An Enthusiastic Greenbeltian
Ethel Johnston
13-C Ridge Road Phone 5261

GATHERING THE NEWS

--
By Frank Burr
(Former News Editor, Cooperator)

Gathering of news for the Greenbelt
Cooperator should be of interest to
every citizen.

For if every resident would take a
moment to jot down items of news inter-
est coming to his attention each week,
and would send these to the newspaper or
phone them in, our news gathering prob-
lem would be completely solved.

Originally, news for the Cooperator
depended upon voluntary contributions
on subjects assigned by the Assistant
Editor to members of the Journalistic
Club.

A newspaper goes to press at a regu-
lar time, however, and as circulation
grows, the dependability of this method
for any one issue became questionable.

The Secretary of the newspaper staff
was asked to serve as news editor, in
order that news items would be sure to
reach the newspaper before time of
printing.

This only partially solved the prob-
lem. The solution has been found in as-
signing permanent beats to regular re-
porters, who report activity in their
field each week. It is difficult even
with this arrangement to uncover all the
news in Greenbelt.

When a person reads the Cooperator
and finds information with which he was
not previously acquainted, he should
feel his responsibility to pass along
those incidents which come to his atten-
tion and which may be of interest to
his other neighbors.

The newspaper should become more and
more a market for the exchange of facts
and ideas, in order that it may serve
in a cooperative way to mirror the town
of Greenbelt weekly.

GREENBELT CONSUMER DISCUSSION GROUPS

By Bertha Maryn

"And what do the women of Greenbelt do," did you say?

Organized, planned and completely run by the housewives of Greenbelt, the Consumer Study Groups have been both an educational and a social function in the community.

The impetus that started these groups came from the Joint Committee on Education - a committee composed of 2 members from the Educational committee and 2 members from the Advisory Committee on Cooperatives.

Less than four months after the first family moved in to Greenbelt and long before Mrs. Greenbelt had completed furnishing her new home, the women of Greenbelt eager to be intelligent shoppers, sponsored their first affair in consumer activity.

On January 25, Miss Alice Edwards, formerly executive-secretary of the American Home Economics Association discussed Consumer Problems with about 85 Greenbelt housewives (the number of families at that time being about 250). This discussion was followed by a get-acquainted tea at which Mrs. Roy S. Braden and Mrs. Robert Jacobsen poured.

- Testing Parties Popular -

Next on the program was the organization of discussion groups. Informally and very simply some 8 or 10 women with the aid of Miss Ollie Hoffman of Consumers Distribution Corporation planned a program of discussions dealing with consumer problems. These pioneers held model discussions and testing and tasting parties, and then in turn each pioneer became a leader or chairman of a group.

On March 23, the Consumer Discussion Groups sponsored another successful program. After six weeks of discussion and study on the question of labels, the program by way of summary, consisted of a film on canning and grading of vegetables, and short talks by members of consumer study groups on allied subjects. At this meeting a resolution was adopted requesting Eastern Cooperative Wholesale and the American Canners Association to use Grade Labels, instead of descriptive.

March 30th was another red letter day in the Calendar of Events of the Consumer Discussion Groups. Sponsored by Grange Lodge Federation, the Consumer Discussion groups helped cook and served a community supper to 300 Greenbeltians.

- Entertainment a Success -

May 25th, marked a gala event. More than 200 women were entertained by a most unusual program. Local musical talent of voice, piano, violin and poetry followed by a lively original skit "Grade Labels", written by Miss Ollie Hoffman, Mrs. Henry Little and Mrs. Stanley Rider was enacted by 17 members of the Discussion Groups; the occasion was topped by refreshments and games.

The number of groups has grown, each week bringing together newcomers and old settlers. The work covered by the discussions included a study of LABELS; MEATS - inspection and grading; MILK - ordinance and regulations; EGGS - grading; FOOD AND DRUG LAWS - their deficiencies and inadequacies. In connection with the latter - the groups borrowed and circulated an exhibit called the American Chamber of Horrors, compiled by the Food and Drug Administration, depicting some of the atrocities now possible under the present Food and Drug Act.

Realizing the tremendous amount of work and education necessary to counteract and reform some existing conditions that are so detrimental to the welfare of the consumer, and in order to make their work more effective, the Greenbelt Consumer Discussion Groups voted to affiliate with the Consumers National Federation.

In spite of the approaching warm weather most of the groups have voted to continue meeting and plans for the ensuing months include picnics, parties and teas along with consumer education.

Greenbelt housewives agree with Mrs. Roosevelt when she says "I think that women as consumers should make it their business to know more about the quality of the goods which they buy, and to consider the conditions under which these goods are produced. If they do this, I feel sure that many changes could be effected which would be beneficial to the general public".

THE GREENBELT HIGH SCHOOL

By Sam Maryn

Begun in the Spring of 1937 and completed some ten months later at a cost of \$142,000, the Greenbelt high school, which will be opened next September, stands at the intersection of Crescent and Beltsville roads.

A bare three miles from the University of Maryland, set a good distance away from the road, almost hidden by trees and bushes, and surrounded by wide lawns, the unpretentious though imposing two-story brick building is ideally situated for a school.

Built by the Federal Government through a private contractor, the high school follows in its architectural features the general Greenbelt style--functional.

Glass brick walls provide an abundance of natural light for the hallways, while large casement windows do likewise for the classrooms. Concrete stairways and floors render the building completely fireproof.

The school possesses eleven classrooms, domestic science, music and industrial arts rooms. Equipment has already been installed for the teaching of sewing, cooking, music, and shop for the boys.

Some three hundred pupils are expected to be enrolled next September, when the school opens, of which number more than one hundred will come from Greenbelt and the remainder from nearby communities in Prince Georges County.

Eleven teachers have already been hired, and Mr. Roland E. Sliker, who is head of the temporary high school in Greenbelt, will be the principal.

The Prince Georges County Board of Education will take over both the maintenance of the building and the supervision of the teaching at the high school through a plan to be worked out between that agency and the Farm Security Administration.

Offering courses in all standard high school subjects the Greenbelt high school will meet the requirements of a certified class "A" high school in Maryland.

A cafeteria will provide hot lunches at reasonable prices for both pupils and teachers.

At present the school has no auditorium, but the government is planning on building one shortly as an addition to the school.

A gravel walk, recently completed, and running through beautiful woodland, connects A block in Greenbelt with the high school.

Since no roads traverse this path, an underpass removing that hazard at the only intersection, at Crescent road, this route is absolutely free from traffic dangers.

It is difficult to imagine a more beautiful or a safer path than that which the Greenbelt children will trod, joyously, we are sure, as they ply their way next September to the new school.

In England authorities estimate that 10 percent of the population have an income too low to permit the payment of an economic rent, and American experts have placed the figure for this country at 30 percent. Higher interest charges and larger allowances for depreciation, repairs and losses on vacancies and arrears, as well as absurdly inflated speculative real estate values, do make the problem more difficult here; and our American figure can certainly not be lower than 20 percent of the total population. The Brookings Institute study, America's Capacity to Consume, by Leven, Moulton, and Warburton, estimated that in 1929--at the peak of prosperity--over 2 million families (nearly 8 percent of the total) had annual incomes of under \$500; nearly 4 million families (nearly 14 percent of the total) had incomes between \$500 and \$1,000; and nearly 6 million families (21 percent of the total) had incomes between \$1,000 and \$1,500. If we allow 25 percent of the annual family income as available for rent, the first group can pay for rent less than \$125 a year, the second group between \$125 and \$250, the third group between \$250 and \$375.

--"Housing as a Public Health Problem" in the American Journal of Public Health, January, 1937, by Dr. C.-E. A. Winslow.

THE NATION'S PRESS LOOKS AT GREENBELT

CINCINNATI, OHIO POST, February 18, 1938 --

There are few minor complaints. Bus service into Washington takes some criticism. Women agree the particular type of floor surfacing in the Greenbelt houses is difficult to keep clean. But in the overall picture no one weighs these little things seriously.

Greenbelt, with a population probably recruited from nearly every state, Georgia and Montana, Texas and Maine, rubbing elbows in the same small community, is in a fair way to becoming America's most representative town.

Even government people admit it costs far more than it should but they believe its progress may have implications of far-reaching significance in American community life. (From an article by Charles T. Lucey, Washington Correspondent of the Cincinnati Post).

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE PRESS SCIMITAR, October 15, 1937

But to get back to the dwellings. Greenbelt's builders say that if the \$5,000,000 relief labor and surplus land charge is deducted, the remaining \$8,400,000 will be returned to the government at the end of 60 years, from surplus town income compounded in a sinking fund.

The government cost, figured thus, amounts to a direct interest subsidy for 60 years--and if the project were built under the Wagner-Stegall Housing Act, it would enjoy a greater bonus as well as direct operating subsidies.

Nor are the officials thru yet. The \$5500 actual cost of each dwelling, it is declared, is not only not excessive, it is really a bargain when viewed in the long run. The Greenbelt home will last for 60 years. The town budget provides for keeping all buildings in good repair, so that when the 60-year period ends the houses will be in as good condition as they are now.

Compare this, say the builders, with the \$2000 or \$3000 jerry-built home ordinarily erected for people of the Greenbelt income group. In 60 years such a house would have had to be rebuilt three times, and during the last five years preceding each rebuilding it would be so dilapidated that the cost of repairs would be uneconomic to undertake.

It is the cheaply built house, not the Greenbelt house, that really costs too much, say these officials. (From an article by Alfred Friendly, Feature writer of Scripps-Howard newspapers).

THE EVENING STAR, WASHINGTON, D. C., September 15, 1936

Even the graveyard tucked away on the edge of the green belt of surrounding trees (source of the town's name), has felt this emphasis on recreation. Bordering the area already containing the tombstone of a project worker, is a path interspersed with hewn-log tables and benches. This will perhaps some day be the main channel of communication with a huge 1700-acre area of a mile from the town. Once extensive farm land, the abandoned fields and wooded clumps may some day be developed into a huge park. (From an article by Gordon Eames Brown, Staff writer).

FREE PRESS, BURLINGTON, VT., September 8, 1937.

The success of an undertaking of this kind is dependent to a very large degree on the attitude of the residents of the town. If they appreciate the opportunity which is offered them--if they are in thorough sympathy with the undertaking--they may go far in demonstrating what can be done by such a cooperative effort. But, if any of them are not inclined to be co-operative in spirit, then there is likely to be trouble before this experiment has progressed very far.

For we cannot expect to have successful model towns until we have model people to live in them. Actually the people make the town. It is very doubtful if the physical characteristics of a town, or its economic system, plays a very large part in determining the character of the people who live there. (Editorial)

THE NATION'S PRESS LOOKS AT GREENBELT

THE PHILADELPHIA, PA. BULLETIN, September 24, 1937

Hence, the probers are going deep; incomes of those who will live with the householder, his normal expenses for gas, electricity and heat, his ownership or non-ownership of the furniture he is using, all are subjects for question and answer. (Greenbelt Winnowings)

NEW YORK CITY WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY, September 28, 1937

"We are convinced" it is stated by Hector Lazo, executive of the food distributor's group, "that the efficient merchant need fear nothing from consumer co-operatives that are financed and managed by the consumers themselves.

"Some organizations seem to have become considerably exercised over the development at Greenbelt but we are of the opinion that, in the first place, this is far preferable to having the Government subsidize consumer cooperatives with taxpayers' money. The Filene group will underwrite all costs themselves and pay a definite rental to the Government for the buildings. Secondly we should look with tolerance upon the experiment because it is absolutely certain to prove two things, namely:

(1) that in order to survive, the functions which are performed by private business will have to be performed in Greenbelt.

(2) that if they are to compete successfully with private business they will have to afford business efficiency and business management at least as good as private business could afford; otherwise, competition will drive them out." (Article from Washington bureau)

PLANNING AND CIVIC COMMENT, July-September, 1937.

These Greenbelt towns are pioneer attempts to integrate successfully all factors to make up complete towns--communities with houses, stores, schools, utilities, and facilities for a full social life. This program has called in to play the coordinate efforts of town planners, architects, engineers, sociologists, economists, management experts, and other technicians.

At the start, the men responsible for these towns had but little in the United States upon which to base their plans. There was a scarcity of available data and statistics. What the planners did have was a long array of things to be avoided. Slums, jerry-built suburbs, grid-iron pattern streets, row after row of "regimented" houses, faced them in every part of the country.

WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS, November 3, 1937

Early Greenbelt settlers braved the storms and rigors of early Greenbelt criticism, and think their new homes are swell. *** Greenbelt housewives take you thru their houses on the slightest provocation. They point with pride to linen closets, cross ventilation, family-size automatic refrigerators and concealed stairways leading from closets to attic storage space. (By Martha Strayer)

PATHFINDER (A National Weekly), December 4, 1937

Theoretically, Greenbelt will be America's most democratic town. It will be a tiny economic democracy, because all its inhabitants come from the same wage class. It will be a political democracy on the order of the old New England town meeting. Though it is a city manager town--Maryland's first--the manager and councilmen will be subject to sharp public scrutiny. *** Already Greenbelt has given signs of the trends its population will take. Of the first 100 families accepted, 73 were Protestants, 22 Catholic, and five Jewish. No Negroes may live in Greenbelt. RA authorities admit this rule is undemocratic, but insist they cannot buck so deeply-rooted an expression of race prejudice as the American "black ghetto".

BALTIMORE SUN, Baltimore, Md., November 25, 1937

It is seriously to be feared that life in Greenbelt is going to be dull.

GREENBELT HEALTH ASSOCIATION

By Arthur A. Dickerman
(Member, Board of Directors)

Shortly after families began moving into Greenbelt, it became apparent that the community needed a doctor. But as the people discussed this problem they found that they needed not only a doctor but also a plan whereby they could budget a substantial part of the costs of medical care. They set to work, therefore, with this goal in mind.

On April 1, after two and a half months of intensive "spade-work", the Greenbelt Health Association began operation and the newly elected Board of Directors announced the opening of the Health Center with Dr. James S. Dryden in charge.

The association has been under way for only two months yet we have already seen the tremendous advantages of budgeting medical expenses through periodic payments. "Prevent that illness" is the watchword of the association, and we have found this motto to be something more than words only.

A member and his family do not hesitate to see the Doctor whenever they need him, since a visit to his office no longer means an outlay of two or three dollars. Consequently, many illnesses have been nipped at the start and saved the patient not only money but health.

Membership charges were fixed as low as possible in order that every resident might be able to avail himself of the services. The \$5.00 entrance fee which every family pays is used to buy medical equipment. The monthly dues, \$2.00 for a family and \$1.50 for an individual, are used entirely for medical services and overhead. (The board of directors, officers, committee members, and office help serve without compensation.)

Members and their families receive general practitioner care. Benefits of membership include unlimited office calls without further cost. Members also have the privilege of calling the doctor to the home, with a small extra charge for the first home visit in any one illness.

While the plan at present is modest,
(Continued on Page 35)

THE GREENBELT PLAYERS

By John P. Murray

In the early weeks of 1938 the town of Greenbelt echoed with a call to arms. By placard and poster, by telephone, by word of mouth and the Cooperator, those interested in the stage and dramatics were summoned for the first meeting of what was to be the town's first entertainment group.

Mrs. Theodora Murray first recognized the possibility of a successful Little Theatre enterprise here and invited all and sundry to step forth and assume roles in the organization of such a group.

On January 11, the first meeting was officially declared in order and the Greenbelt Players came into existence. Some 20 enthusiasts of the theatre attended and, with an amazing lack of formality, began accomplishing things.

Defying the existing order of organization in Greenbelt, they chose to dispense with the usual procedure of electing chairmen to supervise elections for the selection of officers. Instead they adopted the unprecedented but very satisfactory unanimous voting system.

In this manner, they selected Mrs. Murray as President; Mrs. Dorothy Rider, Vice President; Mrs. Fan Schein, Secretary; and Mr. Sherrod East, Treasurer. Once this bit of business was completed, they appointed a play selection committee and settled down to the serious work of producing.

In keeping with the general trend, they also decided to be affiliated with the Greenbelt Citizens' Association, and were promised the use of the new theatre by Greenbelt Consumer Services, Inc.

After due consideration of a dozen one-act plays, three were selected and casts and directors assigned. About February 15 the actual rehearsals began and with them started the series of trials and tribulations that beset their road from then until the rise of the curtain on opening night about two and one-half months later.

First it was a matter of finances necessary for scenery, etc. Then the theatre was far from completed and no one seemed to know when it would be

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THE GREENBELT COOPERATOR,
FROM MARCH, 1938 --

By W. R. Volckhausen, Editor

With the issue of March 2, the Greenbelt Cooperator was taken over by its third staff in a little over three months. Many of the more difficult problems faced in establishing a news organ had been solved by the earlier staffs, and the new staff was presented with a functioning organization.

Production difficulties, accentuated by the inexperience of the new editor and by the temporary lack of a business manager, for a time seemed to threaten the continued existence of the paper. It was particularly difficult to obtain typists, and only the continued faithful assistance of Mrs. Lillian Schwartz and Mrs. Madeline Conklyn, together with others who gave as much time as they were able, made the preparation of the paper at all possible.

A plan of distribution was worked out with the Greenbelt Scout Troop, whereby the scouts took complete charge of local home distribution, retaining 2 cents of the price of each copy they sold. The first purpose for which the scouts used the income so derived was to purchase uniforms, and seven scouts are now sporting uniforms earned by delivering Cooperators. The Cooperator too benefited from this arrangement, as sales immediately rose over 50 percent.

Workers to perform the numerous uncompensated tasks essential to the preparation of the paper were not always easy to find. To insure more assistance and greater responsibility, the Journalistic Club decided to run the paper as a producer's cooperative. Under this plan, 50 percent of each month's profit is returned to the workers in proportion to the number of hours worked.

On May 18 the first distribution was made. The total amount available for distribution was \$41.53, and the total number of hours reported was 909, making a per hour wage of $4\frac{1}{2}$ cents. Twenty-one persons participated in the distribution.

In an endeavor to insure more complete coverage of town news, each reporter has been assigned to a particular field, activity, or organization, and his as-

signment is printed each week in the paper.

Editorially, the paper has endeavored to support progressive town activities, including the Cooperative stores, the Credit Union, the Cooperative Health Plan, the Citizen's Association. We feel that constructive support demands criticism as well as commendation. The Cooperator has endeavored to promote the best interests of the town, as it sees those interests, and it has endeavored to correct misinformation about Greenbelt recurring in many newspapers.

Much of the editorial responsibility has been discharged faithfully and successfully by Samuel Maryn and Howard Custer. Under Mrs. Elizabeth Litte's diligent and skillful care the Women's Page has developed into a newspaper in itself. The Cooperator has benefited greatly from the Sports Page, and the Children's Page, and more recently from the High School Page, conducted by Clifton J. Cockill, Mrs. Dorothy East, and Miss Marita Freeman, respectively, and from Mrs. Bertha Maryn, Henry Little and Howard C. Custer, whose weekly columns have become a regular feature of the paper.

Outstanding among many active reporters are Mayor Louis Bessemer, Bernard Axelrod, Rae Sowell, Vernon Hitchcock, William R. Poole, and John Murray. The business perplexities of the paper are being skillfully resolved by Business Manager Morris Coff and Club Treasurer John McWilliams. Space limitations prevent the mentioning of many others whose untiring assistance to the Cooperator has been of the greatest benefit.

HEALTH ASSOCIATION (Cont'd from P.34)
yet as membership increases and additional dues justify, the services of a second, third, and possibly a fourth, physician, as well as nurses and other technical personnel, will be added. Services can then be expanded to include specialist's care and eventually, we hope, hospitalization.

Entrance fees of new members will make possible the purchase of more complete medical equipment. When this point has been reached we can feel that the major objectives of the association have been accomplished.

THE GREENBELT PLAYERS

(Continued from Page 34)

ready; no curtain had been ordered for the theatre so that even if it was completed in time to give the performance there, this very necessary item would be lacking.

For a time it seemed hopeless, but perseverance and unselfish labor on the part of every member of the group and a borrowed curtain finally made opening night possible on May 6, 1938. It was a gala occasion and the enthusiastic response of the populace made the whole affair a wonderful success.

Three plays were presented, "The Bathroom Door," "Phipps," and "Danger," and each was acclaimed as a masterpiece.

Encouraged as they have been, the Greenbelt Players are already resuming a program designed to make their next effort a more complete success in every detail. They have adopted what is known as The Play Shop and at the bi-monthly meetings such things as lighting, directing, make-up, and expression are taught and put into actual practice.

For instance, at the coming meeting a one-act play is to be given by four of the Players while the rest criticize and offer ideas.

A feeling of cooperation pervades the whole group and the astonishing lack of bickering can be directly traced to their informal organizing. Their interest is the theatre, but only the Greenbelt theatre, and for this they stand to work with unstinting effort.

Within the next three months they hope to again present their efforts to the citizens.

SIR RAYMOND UNWIN VISITS GREENBELT

Admiration for the Government's low cost housing development at Greenbelt, was expressed by Sir Raymond Unwin, known as the father of city planning in England, when he visited the project yesterday with Lady Unwin. With them is John Scott Lansill, director of the Suburban Resettlement Administration. (A.P. Photo) Evening Star, Washington, D. C., March 23, 1938.

ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL, "PENCIL POINTS," OUTLINES GREENBELT PLANNING SET-UP

THE RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION was established by the President in an Executive Order of April 30, 1935. Rexford Guy Tugwell, Undersecretary of Agriculture, was appointed to act as Administrator of the Resettlement Administration. ***

*** The Director of the Suburban Division is John S. Lansill, an Assistant Administrator of the Resettlement Administration, responsible directly to Mr. Tugwell.

The Suburban Resettlement Division is organized on a project basis, with a complete planning staff for each of the three jobs. There is no person in complete charge of any project, the work being done on a cooperative, committee basis. All planning, however, is correlated by Mr. Frederick W. Bigger, Chief of Planning, who is responsible directly to the Director, Mr. Lansill. ***

For the Greenbelt Project Hale Walker is Town Planner, Douglas D. Ellington and Reginald J. Wadsworth are Architects, and Harold B. Bursley is Engineering Designer, Wallace Richards is Coordinator.

(Condensed from the August, 1936 issue of "Pencil Points," an architect's journal.)

HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM

(See article on Page 31, entitled the Greenbelt High School, by Sam Maryn, for details of the school.)

Following is the curriculum for the first year in the New Greenbelt High School:

Freshmen: English I, Civics, Algebra, General Science, Latin, Industrial Science, Home Economics, Music.

Sophomores: English II, World History, Biology, Geometry, Latin, Industrial Science, Home Economics, Music, General Business.

Juniors: English III, U. S. History, Typing, Shorthand, Algebra II, Chemistry.

Seniors: English IV, French II, Trig-Solid, Physics, Typing, Shorthand, Bookkeeping, and Problems of American Democracy.

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